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A SURVEY REPORT ON POWERS, RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF GRAMSABHA UNDER THE GUJARAT PANCHAYAT ACT, 1993 AND SIGNIFICANCE OF GRAMSABHA UNDER THE GUJARAT PANCHAYAT ACT

Report Prepared by

Dr. Rekhaben Mehta

Editor

Dr. Siddhraj Solanki

TRIBAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTRE
Gujarat Vidyapith, Ahmedabad-380 014
2000-2001

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CHAPTER - 1
BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION :

Modern age is an age of democracy. Arrangements are made in this democracy that all the citizens of the nation, irrespective of colour, religion, sex and region can actively participate in politics through franchise. Panchayati Raj is a village level political system for decentralisation of power wherein lowest class of people can get a chance to make use of his power. This is provided through 73rd constitutional amendment in Indian Constitution to facilitate each citizen of the nation to participate in political process. Thus the last of the last citizen of the society gets a chance to get economic, social and educational developmnt of the self, Gram Panchayat has been engaged in taking up developmental activities for years. Even to-day, Gram Panchayats have been involved in developmental programmes of the Government. Recently, American President, Bill Clinton who was on official tour of India, visited a village panchayat of the village Nayala of Rajasthan and personally visited the villagers of Nayala village and warmly talked to them. Having personally seen himself in a Rajasthan village, the women, the depressed and other villagers to-gether on the same platform for participating in development of village without any social discrimination, he whole-heartedly appreciated the Indian Panchayati Raj system, expecially when we see that wars are faught in various regions of the world on the issues of race and colour. He forcefully and emphathatically mentioned, "How a country can be backward, where the women have been respected so nicely ?" The small village of Rajasthan shined on the map of nation due to visit by the American President, Bill Clinton. But more important is the fait that the American President has taken note of Panchayati Raj system and democratic principles of our nation. This is a matter of pride for all of us. (Courtesey : Panchayati Jagat)

Gram Panchayats have been an intregat part of our system for a long past.

The Panchayati Raj system has existed in one form or the other in India for thousands of years. We have the references of Panchayati Raj system in the literature like Valmiki Ramayan, Mahabharat and Kautilya Arthshastra. In short, the idea of Panchayati Raj is not new to us. Panchayati Raj system was functioning in our nation in one form or other from ancient period till the arrival of Britishers in India. In ancient period, the Panchayats in villages had very significant place and distinguished status. The Panchayats in old period consisted of brave people and wise people. The Panchayats were responsible for collection of taxes, doing justice when there was any dispute or a quarrel in a village and welfare of the villagers. Shri Hiralal Shah, in his book "Panchayati Raj" observes :

"The village system synchronizing the old village system of Dravids and new thoughts of Aryans developed in India. The villages were virtually authonomons, and were governed by the elected Panchayats." There is a reference of 'Gramsangh' in Manusmriti. We also find reference regarding 'Gramsangh' in "Jatak Kathas". These Gramsabhas simply mean the meetings of local villagers. In Kautilya's "Arthshastra", it has been mentioned that there was a local government to a great extent in units of cities, towns and villages; and the local administration was handled by elected elders. This local government was considered to be a very precious material and there was least interference by the king or emperor. "Neetisar" was composed in 10th Century by Shukracharya, which mentions that the village panchayat had quite a good powers regarding administration and justice and the officials of the king behaved withthe Panchayat members with great respect. The distribution of land in village was done by the Panchayat. It was also responsible for collection of king's share in grown-up crops and for reaching it to the government on behalf of the village.

We also get information about the system of election of the village panchayat members, their eligibility for election or otherwise etc. from some of the articles in

South India. Various Committees were also elected and women were also elected in those committees. These committees were elected every year. The member, who misbehaves, was driven out. A member who failed to give accounts of public money was considered to be unit as a member to Panchayat.

India is predominantly an agriculturist nation with major occupation by villagers. Nearly 80 per cent of people are in villages. Mahatma Gandhi used to say that my India habitates in a number of villages. A village has been the basic unit of administrative machinary since ancient India. The wholesome development of village society is basically the fundamental of Panchayati Raj.

In Panchayati Raj system, the total area of the State is divided into very small regional divisions for sake of administrative convinience. The organisation which administers the functions of these small units is known as Panchayati Raj organisation. As seen above, the local administration of the villages was looked after by Panchayats in India since ancient times. It is a well known statement in our country that "Panch is God". Five wise people of the village used to administer the village's functions; they used to develop a village, they used to give justice; they used to maintain the wells, roads and tanks of the village; they used to provide infrastructure like Dharmshala, Temple or school. The security of the village and its protection was also carried out by the people of village. These traditions did exist since ancient period in our country. In ancient and medieval period, the foreigners attacked India. Likewise, there were wars between a state and a state. But amidst all these wars and outside attacks, the villages survived. The villages and their culture could survive due to traditional system of Panchayats. The Governor General Charles Mat Chaff notes about village panchayats in India. "The village panchayats in India are small local governments. They are self sufficient in all their needs. They are immune to outside relationships. During wars and cyclones. When nothing could survive; the village panchayats have been functioning in fact. All the panchayats are free and they are as good as an

autonomous state. The happiness, peace, autonomy and the freedom of villages are largely due to such panchayats."

Since ancient period, the village in India was self-sufficient for all its needs and requirements. The kings used to change; but the solidiarity of a village life was unmoved. Villages were not in contact with an outside world due to lack of communications, roads and transport. This tradition continued for centuries together because of limited needs, simple life, self-sufficiency and agro cultural dominance consequently, there were no new air, new awareness, new thoughts or new deveopment. It was an old traditional life. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, in his book, Glimpses of World History has discussed this issue in follwing words; "It was indeed a very good matter that villages were locally free and autonomous. But one should not neglect the defects and limitations of that system. The autonomous village life, totally aloof to an outside world was not conducive to development. An individual or a community, if remains self contained, is likely to develop as selfish and mean-minded. That is why, the village communities, though they were very good in themselves, couldnot become the centres for development."

During British rule, the autonomy of village panchayats totally disappeared. The Royal Commission Report in 1907 mentions that these villages were lergely autonomous in earlier period; but this autonomy has now totally disappeared due to local civil and criminal courts, due to the revenue and police system, due to increased transport and communication system, due to development in individual freedom and due to the revenue reform movement.

The Panchayat system could develop the spirit of village self-sufficiency and village-autonomy in people; but it coudnot grow the national spirit among them. The people who were concerned about the protection of their village or those who could sacrifice their lives for sake of religion, were not moved by the attack on nation. The British rulers, very calculatively destroyed our Panchayat System to strengthen their

own power, as soon as the English rule in India became stronger. Howeve, in course of time, there was an awareness about freedom of nation among Indian Citizens; and in order to satisfy that requirement to only small extent, the same rulers did re-establish Panchayat's as part of local self government system in some of the States of India.

Gandhiji returned from South Africa in 1915. He declared; "India, in a way, has remained a Republic. The grampanchayats are in root of this. "He started an independent movement to remove the foreign rule. Simultaneously, he depicted a picture of Free India before our country. He considered the village freedom as base for independent India. He believed that each village should be a totally republic unit. In his concept of village independence, village was always in focus. He very clearly believed that power should always be decentralised if we want to maintain the Indian culture and Indianism, and if we want to encourage the mass power of the society and provide welfare programmes for such masses. He strongly believed that the welfare of people will be achieved to the extent the powers are delegated to the panchayats.Two terms "Gandhiji" and "Independence" are so intermixed with each other that Gandhiji can not be forgotten, when we talk about independence of villages.

In context with village independence Gandhiji made a statement that the independence of my dream is an independence of poor. He believed that all the facilities which are available to rich people, should be available to poor as well. That, of course, doesnot mean that the poor should have places; but the day to day facilities being enjoyed by the rich persons should be provided to poor also. Unless this is done, the independence is not complete.

"In the independence of my dream, there is no place for discrimination on the basis of caste or religion; nor it is a monopoly of literate poeple or rich people. Independence will be for all. These 'all' include, peasents, disabled and crores of hungry deligent people".

In his last days also, Gandhiji repeatedly said that only strong Panchayats will be able to facilitate the new construction of India. Our nation is totally sovereign democratic republic; but it is a matter of great concenr to think if we have been able to fulfil Gandhiji's dream of independence. Of course, the 73rd constitutional amendment is a noteworthy initiative in that direction. This topic is dealt in elaboration in the next chapter.

Immediately after Indendence, the Constitution was drafted on the basis of democratic base. It recognised the significance of village independence, with the result, the programme of Panchayats and its development got momentum in a number of villages in most of the States. In our Constitution Article 40 of the Directive Principles of State Policy clearly gives the mendate: "It will be the duty of the state to constitute village Panchayats and give them adequate powers and rights and to activate them as basic unit of independence". We have undertaken several huge plans and other useful projects for the development of our country. But these huge and giant development schemes are meaningless; unless millions of our villages which are backbone of our nation are not developed. In order to develop millions of these villages, the community development scheme had been initiated throughout our nation with an impressive begining. There was a wave of great enthusiasm in all the villages throughout our nation; but with lapse of time, the so called revolutionary Community Development Scheme (CDS) was trapped into red-tappism of administrative machinary the enthusiam of people soon calmed down; because the Panchayat which was the basic unit of rural independence was totally lot sight of was mariginalised.

SIGNIFICANCE OF PANCHAYATI RAJ :

The Community Development Scheme aimed at the development of villages. In order to make the people participants in this scheme, in true sense of the term, it was not only necessary but indespensible to decentralise the centralised power and

governance in the State Government to village level and to constitute a democratic infrastructure from village level to district level. This democratic infrastructure was nothing else but PANCHAYATI RAJ. Panchayati Raj, as seen earlier, is not at all a new experiment. It is a concrete programme at democratic decentralisation, based on spirit of concept and thinking of Panchayati System; which has been gradually developed in its natural course. In independent India, we have accepted socialism for speedy development of the nation and for construction of new society. In this context, the significance of Panchayati Raj assumes greater importance.

BEGINING OF PANCHAYATI RAJ :

A Committee was constituted in the year 1956 under Chairmanship of Shri Govind Vallabh Pant to consider as to how the development schemes can become more efficient and effective and to suggest measures to this end. Under this Committee, a sub-committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Balwantray Mehta. The major task before this sub-committee was to make constructive suggestions to make the village-based development schemes more successful. The members of this Committee made a nation-wide tour and thoroughly made an indept study of working and work-techniques of Community Development Schemes and National extension service schemes. They could clearly observe that people donot co-operate to the expected level in the Community Development Schemes. The Development should be through people; but that doesnot happen. The benefits of the programmes and schemes donot reach to people for which they are meant. They felt that the administrative machinary at district and taluka level needs a thorough over-hauling. The Commitee considered all these issues in their totality; and presented a well thought-out report in November, 1957. In the recommendations of Shri Balwantray Mehta Committee's Report, emphasis was placed on basic and fundamental principles of democratic decentralisation. The Committee had recommended that all the responsiblities should be entrusted to the democratically constituted

organisation by those people who have necessary powers and resources for implementation of schemes, which should be formed at village level only. The Committee contented that this is the pre-condition to make people throughly participate in development programmes.

Shri Balwantrai Mehta Committee presented before a nation, a very revolutionary programme of democratic decentralisation, bringing the deep-rooted change in administrative structure. A recommendation was made for establishment of Panchayati Raj, to exercise economy in developmental works and to bring about efficiency and with an intensive desire to muster whole-hearted co-operation of people in national re-construction mission and to with a well-spirited intension to build a new pattern of administrative structure which can facilitate the basic democratic organisations to take up the general administration and developmental functions at district level and lower levels. The conclusions and recommendations of the Committee were approved by the National Development Council in 1958. Nehru, however, coined a new term of "Panchayati Raj", instead of the heavy sounding term 'democratic decentralisation'. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru emphasised on making the panchayats quite effective; and henceforth, the term 'Panchayati Raj' was popularly used.

Thus, to sum up, we can say that 'Panchayati Raj means decentralisation of Power' or an autonomous organisation, which carries out the community development functions in democratic way. From this point of view, the concept of Panchayati Raj was concretised into certain specific form in accordance with the recommandations of Balwantrai Mehta Committee appointed in 1957. In whole of India, Panchay Raj was formally started for the very first time, in October 1959 in Rajasthan. Panchayati Raj started functioning in Andhra Pradesh in November, 1959 and in Maharashtra in May, 1962.

The Gujarat Panchayati Raj Act was distinguished as compared to other states of India. In Gujarat, the powers and administration was de-centralised in democratic way making a good begining to Panchayati Raj on 1-5-1463. At that time, Gujarat was the only state in whole of India which paid 100 per cent Revenue income of the state to the village, taluka and District Panchayats, in form of grant-in-aid. All the village panchayats were provided with the services of trained secretary. Social Justice Committees were constituted mandatorilly in village, Taluka and District Panchayats for weaker sections of the society. Besides, Compromise Punch and Nyay Panchayats were provided for so that the rural people get simple and speedy justice at the door step. The Gujarat Panchayati Raj was considered to be a model in whole of India due to its people-oriented administration, people's very active co-operation and involvement in the developmental activities as well as due to some specific provisions in the Panchayati Act.

The constitution of Panchayati Raj generated great enthusiam among rural people of India. They felt as if the independence is provided to them at their door step. New rural leadership was coming up. The developmental works were carried out from the voluntary donations provided by people. It generated awareness and new thrill among village people.

The development of Panchayati Raj was best during 1960-1968. People used to solve their issues regarding watch, roads, school rooms, health services etc. in the villages consulting the office bearers of Panchayati Raj organisations instead of M.P's. and M.L.A.s. A number of developmental works were undertaken in villages of Gujarat in first decade of Panchayati Raj. This drew the attention of whole of nation.

However, during 1958-1977 some State Governments look a step-motherly attitude towards Panchayati Raj Organisations. The rights delegated to Panchayats were with drawn. Elections of Panchayats were not held. After 1970, Panchayati Raj remained only on paper in many states except Gujarat, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Karnatak.

The Ashok Mehta Committee appointed by the Central Government in 1978 recommanded to give the Panchayati Raj Organisations the constitutional status, regular resources, specific area of operation and necessary powers. However, no body paid any attention towards the demand for All India Panchayat Parishad.

73rd CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT :

Rajiv Gandhi wanted to give constitutional status to Panchayati Raj by making an amendment in constitution of India for which 14th amendment bill for constitutional amendment was presented on 15th May, 1989, but it was defeated in Rajsabha. After Loksabha elections, the National Front came in power, and Mr. V.P. Sinh became Prime Minsiter of India. The 73rd amendment bill was presented on 13th September 1990, but when V.P. Sinh ceased to be Prime Minister of India since 9th November, 1990, the bill could not be discussed in the house.

The Narsinh Rao Government presented the bill in Loksabha in September 1991. Both Lok Sabha and Raj Sabha Passed the bill. More than fifty per cent of the State Legislative Assemblies of various states also supported the bill. President of India accorded his consent to the bill; and thereafter the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act came into force since 24-4-93.

The objectives of the Panchayat Act are :

- The Panchayati raj organisations are established without fail in all the rural areas of the Nation.
- They should be provided constitutional status and position;
- Adequate powers, rights, resources are made available to Panchayati Raj Organisations at village, taluka and district level.
- Panchayati Raj Organisation get sustainibility, certainty and empowerment.
- They become competent and empowered for providing economic development and social justice to rural areas.

- People actively participate in implementation of Panchayati Raj objectives.

The Government of India has taken a historical action by making 73rd amendment in the constitution of India.

As per this amendment, all the states have to make certain provisions in their Panchayat Acts obligatorily; but some other provisions are left to the discretion of the State Legislative Assemblies. All the states have enacted and implemented their respective Panchayat Acts before 24-4-99. When late P.M. Rajiv Gandhi presented the bill before Parliament, he gave the slogan, "POWER TO PEOPLE".

It is a fact that Panchayati raj is means to encompass and strengthen the democracy in rural areas of our country. In modern era, Panchayati Raj system has become more or less permenent for all the states. Besides, these organisations also become instrumental in bringing socialistic pattern of the Societies. It is necessary to aceept this reality.

Lenin had said, "It is necessary to bring women in politics in order to bring a larger mass in political scemareo. Half portion of mankind in form of women have been drudged under household work under capitalism."

This social reality was seen and understood by India earlier than other countries, and took appropriate solid action and made constitutional amendment to make 33 per cent reservations in all local government organisations including panchayats. This has been a most revolutionary and praise-worthy step. This started a silent revolution inour country. For the first time in history, women in such a large number, get representation at a time in local government organisations. There will be very deep-rooted repurcusions in Indian political and social life. This amendment is indeed a welcome change; because, in our traditional society, it is meaningless to operate democracy without active involvement and participation by our women folk.

The 73rd amendment act has also made it mendatory to convence Gramsabha

meeting in all the villages. Government of India celebrated the year 1999-2000 as Gramsabha year. In this context this centre has been asked to conduct a survey study regarding the powers, rights and duties of Gramsabha and the significance of Gramsabha under Gujarat Panchayat Act of 1993, by the Development Commissionor, Gandhinagar. The regional areas of the study, objectives methods and techniques of survey etc are as under :

SCOPE OF THE STUDY :

Following districts have been selected for study to provide cross-section representation of the whole of Gujarat.

1. Valsad and Navsari Districts from South Gujarat.

2. Vadodara District from Central Gujarat.

3. Sabarkantha District from North Gujarat.

4. Junagadh District from Saurashtra.

5. Kutch District from Kutch region.

Note : Now Navsari has become a seperate District; and Vansada is a part of Navsari District. So, it should be now considered as sixth district.

Thus 6 districts have been selected for the study. We have taken two talukas from each district and 5 villages have been covered for the purpose from each taluka. The list of talukas and villages have been enlisted below. Initially, we had identified Valsad and Vansada talukas from Valsad District; but thereafter, Navsari was notified as a seperate District, with Vansada under that district now. Therefore, we have one each taluka from these two districts of Valsad and Navsari. While selecting the talukas, the criteria for selection was, one taluka with tribal population and one taluka with non tribal population. Here is a detailed list :

1. **VALSAD DISTRICT**

Valsad Taluka

(1) Abrom (2) Marla (3) Ronwell

(4) Tithal (5) Pardi Parnera

2. **VADODARA DISTRICT**

Vadodara Taluka

(1) Chhani (2) Dashrath

(3) Sakarda (4) Fajalpur

(5) Undera

Chhota Udepur Taluka

(1) Ronwad (2) Ghelwant

(3) Ghanghola (4) Singla

(5) Gabadia

3. **KUTCHH DISTRICT**

Mandvi Taluka

(1) Moto Bamja (2) Moti Raman

(3) Bhinkhara (4) Durgapur

(5) Janakpur

Bhuj Taluka

(1) Bhujodia (2) Deshalpur

(3) Chhachhala (4) Vadasar

(5) Golpar

4. SABARKANTHA DISTRICT

Himatnagar Taluka

(1) Pural (2) Bhavsar

(3) Hadiyal (4) Takhatgadh

(4) Nikoda

Khedbrahma Taluka

(1) Laxmipura (2) Kalol

(3) Poshina (4) Kajawas

(5) Amba Mahuda

5. JUNAGADH DISTRICT

Vanthali Taluka

(1) Badwada (2) Ravni

(3) Dhandhusar (4) Balot

(5) Novlakhi

Talala Taluka

(1) Vadla (2) Virpur

(3) Borwav (4) Samresi

(5) Ganiavad

6. NAVSARI DISTRICT

Vansada Taluka

(1) Vadichanda (2) Ghodmal

(3) Kelia (4) Kaudej

(5) Pipalkhed

While selecting the above mentioned villages for our study, we have taken 5 villagers and 5 village panchayat members as respondents. They have been selected in such a way that the representation of Schedule Caste, Schedule Tribe Socially and Economically backward community (SEBC) and general category is maintained. We had selected 500 respondents from 50 villages. We have collected information and responses amont Gramsabha during our personer interviews during fildwork from all the 500 respondents.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY :

The Government of India has celebrated the year 1999-2000 as Gramsabha year. In this contest, the Development Commissioner, Government of Gujarat, Gandhinagar has entrusted the survey study of Gramsabha to Tribal Research and Training Centre. The objectives of the study are as under :

1. To examine whether Gramsabha meetings are convened it various parts of the state.

2. In some of the villages of the State, the Gramsabha meeting is not convened. To examine, why such meetngs are not convened and to suggest the measures for this.

3. To examine, whether the people of the villages are aware about Gramsabha. Also to examine, whether they attend Gramsabha meetings.

4. To examine whether Gramsabha has been able to meet the expectations of people. To find out how this basic fundamental grass root organisation of people becomes more effective and functionally sound.

5. To examine if the women also participate in Gramsabha meetings.

6. To suggest the measures for more and more participation of people in Gramsabha meetings.

METHODS AND TECHNIQUES OF STUDY :

For this study, library was used to collect secondary information. The literature on Panchayati Raj and 73rd constitutional amendment was studed; where as for various villages, talukas and districts covered under this study, the census reports were refered and thus all essential background information was collected and notes were made.

For primary data, a Schedule was prepared and used during the field work to collect first hand information. Besides, we had also personally attended several Gramsabha meetings and made clase observations during these meetings to supplement the information about participation of the villagers in Gramsabha meetings and about attendance by women the Gramsabha meetings. Besides, personal interviews were conducted to get information about Gramsabha and their functioning from some of the officials, village panchayat members and the villagers also.

Thus, various techniques and methods of Research Studies have been deployed to collect the information.

CHAPTERISATION :

The total study report regarding Gramsabha has been presented in following eight chapters.

In first chapter, we have given historical background of Panchayati Raj. Besides, in this chapter, we have mentioned about scope of the study, how many are the respondents for this study and who are they. We have also included the objectives of the study and methods and techniques deployed for this study as well as the mode of presentation i.e. Chapterisation of the study has also been included in this

chapter. At the end of first chapter, we have shown the significance of the study.

In Second Chapter, we have discussed in details about the 73rd constitutional amendment and Gujarat Panchayat Act, 1993.

In Third Chapter, we have attempted to give meaning of the Gramsabha, its powers, its rights, its duties and its significance.

The Forth Chapter is regarding Socio-economic conditions of the respondents. (i.e. villagers)

The Fifth Chapter deals with socio-economic conditions of the respondents (i.e. the members of village panchayat)

The Sixth Chapter presents the opinions of the village panchayat members about gramsabha in form of tables.

The Seventh Chapter is tabular presentation of opinions of village people about Gramsabha.

The last Eighth Chapter presents the coclusions and suggestions.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY ON GRAMSABHA :

India is a country made of villages. Therefore Grampanchayats in this country assumes special significance. Through Panchayati Raj, the power is docentralised. It the local people undertake to administer the affairs of the village, there is a better scope of development of villages. Especially through the 73rd constitutional amendment, specific provisions have been made. If people start to participate in panchayat affairs, takes interest inits functions, the village is likely to develop well. For this purpose, the Gramsabha has been provided with the constitutional status, and according to that, each member of the Gramsabha have been bestowed with the powers to rule. Gramsabha includes all the members male and female above the age of 18 years and who have right to vote as members. Gramsabha is such a system

wherein the people have direct access to their elected representatives. Thus, Gramsabha is an able medium of self-government. If the people of he village come together, discuss commen issues and problems and if theywork to-gether in a frindly manner, a number of problems can be eased. Thus Gramsabha assums very special significance. It is hoped that this study will be useful to the officials associated with village panchayats and the members of the panchayats.

CHAPTER - 2

73rd CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND GUJARAT PANCHAYAT ACT, 1993

if we want to develop Indian nation, we must develop crores of people living in villages. As we have seen earlier, we, in India, had village panchayats from vedic period. The 'Janpad' of Vaishali Gantantra were famous as units of democracy. The freedom and self-sufficiency of rural unit have very significant place in Indian history. In rural society, Panchayat is always known as essence and basic unit of democracy. Panchayat is a most important organisation for democracy and decentralisation of power.

PANCHAYATI RAJ AND 73rd CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. (NEW ACT) :

Panchayati raj system is excellent for local administration and for herculious task of rural development.

Local government is that kind of government wherein people themselves decide about their own needs and future. They need not depend on such government which is very very far away from themselves. This form of government was considered to be 'self-government' (Swarajya) by Gandhiji. During present times, the same concept has been popularised through the slogan of 'my government in my village'. Such local government is not only an utopia or a dream. It can become a reality through the Panchayati Raj Act. New Panchayati Raj Act has visualised panchayat as sensitive to needs of people, responsible to the decisions of Gramsabha and working in the direction of social justice and economic development with equal participation of men and women and all the communities to-gether.

The roots of democracy can be stronger only if the people are eternally vigilent and active. In order to nurture the democratic values, the political will, healthy tradions and preservaton and maintenance of traditions are essential. Openness in ideology

of people and willingness to accept the change in thinking are also essential. The people should always keep a positive point of view and should remain active for people's welfare and preservance of democracy. The process of decentralisation should be such planned that the voice of the last and least person of the village can reach to the central focus. Through the 73rd constitutional amendment, the parliament has given constitutional recognision to Panchayati Raj. This can be confirmed through Articie 40 of the Directive Principles of State policy of the constitution in following text :

"Necessary powers and rights will be bestowed upon the village Panchayats so that they can function as an independent unit of autonomous government."

As per this constitutional provision, the parliament of India enacted the Panchayat Act and thereby accorded legal sanction to the local self organisatons to muster the people's participation and to make the people to contribute in the process of social change. The parliament of India, have made an attempt to give importance to local leadership of people. The Central Government has given clear directives to state government to enact a Panchayat Legislation suitable to their social, political and economic background. This Panchayat Legislation has been included in part 9 of the constitution of India. Besides, 20 different kind of developmental programmes have been incorporated in schedule 11 of the constitution. Thus the 73rd constitutional amendment came into force since April 24, 1993.

MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF 73RD CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT :

(1) In each village covered under Panchayat area, there should be a Gramsabha consisting of all people registered as voters in the franchise list.

(2) The Gramsabha should be vested with powers bestowed by Law, as in case of Legislative Assembly.

(3) There should be 3 tier panchayats viz-village, Taluka and District level. In a state, where the total population of the state is less than 20 lakhs, there should be 2 tier panchayats viz village and district level.

(4) At all levels of Panchayats, elections should be held directly. At village panchayat level, the state govt. will decide about the elections of head of panchayat. At taluka and district level, the presidents will be elected by the elected members of the respective panchayats.

(5) The seats in panchayat elections will be reserved for schedule castes and schedule tribes pro rata with the population of S.C. & S.T. The reservation of seats in case of women will be one third of total no. of seats at each level.

(6) For the posts Sarpanch at village panchayat level and for presidents at Taluka and District Panchayat level, one third of all such posts will be kept reserved for women. For Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe, the posts should be kept reserved prorata to the percentage of population of S.C. and S.T. In case of other backward classes, (OBC), the State Government can take decision about researvation of the posts considering the local population of OBC.

(7) The tenure of Panchayats will be for 5 years, whenever, any panchayat is disolved, the re-election of that panchayat shall be held within 6 months. When such re-elections are held to replace the desolved panchayats, the tenure of the re-elected body shall be only for the remaining period of original tenure.

(8) The State Governments shall give necessary powers to panchayats law to collect taxes, fee, levy etc. The State Governments should also give powers to the panchayats so that they are enabled to formulate the schemes and programmes on subjects contained in schedule 11 of constitution of India, as well as on subjects of Development and Social Justice. The Development Programmes at the District level shall be planned jointly by Panchayats and the

Municipalities under 74th constitutional amendment. The Rules will be framed and the Committees will be constituted for planing of development programmes by State Legislative Assemblies.

(9) All the Panchayats which are already in existance at the time of inplementation of this amendment will cantinue to exist and function; but the State Assembly, by a resolution can disolve these panchayats. All the states shall have to enact a new Panchayat Act within one year of enforcement of this amendment; or shall have to amend their existing Panchayat Act, suitably to accomodote all the provisions contained in the amendment. Thus, all the States of India are required to enact a new legislation on or before April 24, 1994.

(10) The States shall have to constitute State Election Commission for conducting Panchayat Elections; and State Financial Commission for financial matters related to Panchayats.

(11) The Finance Commission in each State will recommend to allot funds to Panchayats to make them economically sound and also to make enhancement in the States Fiscal Reserve Fund.

GUJARAT PANCHAYAT ACT, 1993 :

In consideration to the 73rd constitutional amendment by Government of India, the State of Gujarat has passed Gujarat Panchayat Act, 1993 in Gujarat State Legislative Assemblyin August, 1993. This Act is enforced w.e.f. April 15, 1994. The New Panchayat Act contains the matters such as :

- Establishment of Panchayats.
- Procedure for Panchayat elections.
- Functions/Duties of Panchayats

- Gramsabha
- Various Committees of Panchayats
- Taxes and Funds
- Formulation of Development Plans.
- State Finance Commission.
- State Election Commission. etc.

According to this New Act, the village, Taluka and District Panchayats are re-constituted. Out of 13,489 village Panchayats, the elections were held for 7,000 village panchayats in June 1995. Alongwith this, elections for 183 taluka panchayats and 19 district panchayats were held simultaneously.

GRAMSABHA :

Under 73rd constitutional amendment, provision has been made to delegate all the powers to Gramsabha so that it can function independently like State Legislative Assembly. This constitutional provision is embodied in section 4 of the Gujarat Panchayat Act, 1993. Gramsabha means an organisation made of all people who have been registered as voters in a franchise list of a village falling under Panchayat area. Gramsabha has been empowered to take important decisions related to the functions of the village panchayat.

As per provisions of the Panchayat Act, it is mendatory to convene the meeting of Gramsabha twice a year. Besides this Sarpanch can also convene a meeting of Gramsabha as and when required. The extra-ordinary meeting of the Gramsabha can be convened by the Taluka / District Panchayats also. The first Gramsabha of the year shall be compulsorilly be held before end of May of each financial year. This Gramsabha meeting will review the accounts and activities of the previous year. In the next Gramsabha meeting, planning will be done for the next year. If the people's

participation is ensured in these gramsabha meetings, the transperancy and responsibility of the village panchayat will be in fact. Between the two meetings of the gramsabha, the time-gap should not be less than 3 months. Usually the Sarpanch convenes the meeting of Gramsabha at stipulated time and place.

The Agenda for the Gramsabha meetings are decided by the Sarpanch. This Agenda should be notified at the Panchayat Office or in the village through a written notice or even publicly by beating a drum alongwith time and place. It is necessary to take signatures of people in this Agends. The Taluka Panchayat / District Panchayat Officials, the MLA, the M.P. can also be invited to the Gramsabha Meeting; but they have no right to vote. Only those residents of the village, whose names appear in franchise list as voters have a right to vote. Therefore, the active participation of the voters of the village is essential for self-government.

Gramsabha is the basis of self Government. The panchayats of to-morrow will be strengthened only if the gramsabha is strengthened. The gramsabha has been given a constitutional status by the 73rd constitutional amendment; and thereby each member of the Gramsabha gets a right to govern.

REPORT OF BHURIYA SAMITI ON PANCHAYATI RAJ IN TRIBAL AREAS :

A Committee was constituted consisting of some members of pariament and some experts to make recommendation on specific legal issues regarding application of the provisions contained in part 9 of the constitution of India to the areas enlisted in Schedule V. The Committee was headed by Shri Dilipsinh Bhuria. This Committee became known as Bhuria Committee. A Bill was presented in Parliament in May 1995 in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee. This became a Law on 24 December, 1996 when the President of India accorded his approval to the now Panchayat Act for Tribal areas. All the State Governments are directed to enact similar Act for their States within one year. This is a new milestone

in the history of India. It is a matter of great significance that for the first time after 50 years of independence, a fresh outlook is considered for tribals. In Gujarat, we have 15 per cent population of tribals. The new Act is all to more significant in the light of this fact. This Act provides for the controls by tribal people on their community resources, law and order, planning for development and its emplementation etc. in their villages. This Act gives constitutional recognisation to the traditional tribal system.

No State Legislative Assembly can enact a law which is not in confirmity with traditional tribal system - religious, social customs or cultural matters.

After enactment of this law, if any act is made which is not in confirmity with tribal traditions, it can be challenged in court of law or it can be stayed before it inplementation.

In short, this act recognises the reality of existance of tribal village community which is functioning in its own traditional way in a village. In order to provide for the tribal self government, the Gujarat State Legislative Assembly has also made appropriate amendment in Gujarat Panchayat Act, 1993 on 1-7-1998, which is now known as Gujarat Tribal Areas Act, 1998. Thus, it is a matter of pleasure that we have a new Panchayat Act leading the tribals a one-step forward in the direction of self-government.

CELEBRATION OF GRAMSABHA YEAR AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE :

We have observed earlier that one significant provision in the 73rd constitutional amendment is that all powers are delegated to Gramsabha to enable it to function independently like State Legislative Assembly.

In democracy, there are two main political system of government :

(1) The elected representatives of people rule. In such a system, the role of com-

mon citizen is restricted to simply casting his vote in election. He/She has no further role to play in this system.

(2) In another pattern of government, people themselves are rules. Such a system prevailed both in India and Greece. This is an ideal system of Government.

In present democratic system of government, when the powers are delegated, we have the benefits of both these systems to-gether. The Government of India has given a constitutional status to gramsabha through 73rd constitutional amendment. Under this, each member of the Gramsabha gets a right to Govern. Gramsabha is a kind of system wherein the people have direct channel of communication with their elected representatives. No other system (State Legislative Assembly or Loksabha) provides for such a direct contact. From this point of view, Gramsabha is an able medium of self government. Itis an intregal part of self-government.

On the eve of celebration of Gramsabha year, the then President of India K.R. Narayan, stating about significance of Gramsabha observed :

"The quality of national life is after all determined by the quality of life in our villages. In Gramsabha only, the rural poor, women and ordinary individuals get a chance to participate effectively in the decisions which affect their lives, in a transperent and responsible atmosphere. Therefore, it is necessary to make herculean efforts to well equip the Gramsabhas and other Panchayati Raj organisations by delegating effective powers to them and by giving them training and develop their efficiency and delegate them with financial and other responsibilities. I hope that declaring the year 1999-2000 as "Gramsabha" year will enable the Panchayati Raj organisations to work more effectively and they will become active and energetic vehicles of Swarajya"

(courtsey : 'Gujarat Samachar' 5th July, 1999)

Thus the constitution of India through the 73rd constitutional amendment has made it possible for each citizen of the nation to participate in the political process. Gramsabha has given a chance to the last of the last men of the society as well as to the women to make development of self as well as that of their village. Gram Panchayats have been undertaking developmental programmes for years, and to-day also panchayats have been involved in the developmental programmes of the government. In the next chapter, we wiil discuss about Gramsabha.

CHAPTER - 3

MEANING OF GRAMSABHA, POWERS, RIGHTS, DUTIES, SIGNIFICANCE OF GRAMSABHA UNDER THE GUJARAT PANCHAYAT ACT.

INTRODUCTION :

Grampanchayat is a basic unit of Panchayati Raj and Gramsabha is a heart of Grampanchayat. It is best tool to enhance people's strength. The success of Panchayati Raj Organisation depends on awareness, activeness and unity of Gramsabha. The efficiency of Gramsabha can be translated into its utilisation for people, provided that the record and administration of Panchayat is near perfection. Panchayat is a training school for making a village reaching to state level and a state reaching to central level. In a democracy, people are king / emperor. The administration should be run to theri expectations. The collective voice of people to the village is worth implementation in democarcy. In Panchayati Raj, this opportunity is more available by Gramsabha.

Shri Dhebarbhai once mentioned that Gramsabha is a land for Panchayati Raj, and the village Panchayat is its seed. This is so, because, Gramsabha is a basis of Panchayati Raj. The democratic principle of Panchayati Raj is fulfilled if both the seed and the land are sound. Shri Jay Prakash Narayan once opined that the relationship between the village Panchayat and Gramsabha should be like that of cabinet of Ministers and the Legislative Assembly. The Panchayati Raj will be successful to the extent of Gramsabha being powerful, spirited, awakened and efficient. The Gramsabha assumes special position and significance in Panchayati Raj. That is why, Gramsabha is the basis of Panchayati Raj. Gramsabha meens village people's meeting Jansabha. All the voter women and men of the village are the members of the Gramsabha. They all have equal rights. In true sense of the term, Gramsabha provides guidance and inspiration to a village Panchayat.

Tracing back the history of India, we find that people and their committees used to administer in the village. The committees consisted of people of the village only. These committees used to undertake the works of village welfare. In vedas, such committees are known as 'VISH'. Thus committees existed in its original form as 'Sabha' which was very popular. Sabha was an effective body consisting of nearly 200 to 1000 prominent village people. The administration was carried out by its executive committee.

There was a scople and place for dispule and parleys very independently and the decision taken after paileys and discussion was abiding to all villagers. The president of the 'Sabha' was known as 'Sabhapati'. In people's views, 'Sabha' was a high level civic body, which carried out all important decisive acts manimously.

In course of time, such organisations based on peple's governance, developed. There was a time when such organisations were responsible for total administration within village area; and acted as an indispensible ingredient of the society. This organisations had a wider spectrum of activities of people's welfare ranging from providing assistance to distressed persens to production of food grains; and from combaning with decoits to protection and defence of the society. No body dared to disobey the dicision of Gramsabha and if somebody did it, he was considered as enemy of the village.

Gramsabha is also known as Mahasabha in history. It had total power within all areas of the village. The Sabha owned its own premises where the nothings were held for works pertaining to village. Where such facilities didnot exist, the meetings were held in the temple's premises. Small committees were formed for various activities. The president of such committee was known as 'Mahapurush'. These committees were farmed for activities such as water source, gardens & parks, court, agriculture, defence etc. such committees acted within the jurisdiction of the functions assigned to them and were carrying out people's welfare functions.

The committees had their birthplace at Gramsabha. The village was divided into small regional areas. The people of each region decided their representative on the committee. Usually people between the age group of 35 yrs. to 70 yrs. were considered to be experienced and were placed on Sabha. The education and monetary conditions of such representatives were also considered. One who had done some wrong in previous committee or one who has done any one of the "Five great sins" was not considered eligible for nomination on such committees.

Our present day Gramsabha has its deep roots in our previous tradition of running of people's administration through the representatives of people as per Aryan culture milien. The village life cannot become lively if only the office bearers of Panchayat or its members are aware and enthusiastic, nor can the people's works be carried out well. But if all the people come to-gether in Gramsabha, if they present their problems and difficulties, if they express their views and opinions, if they have exchange of thoughts and views, if they suggest the measures for such issues and if the working of the panchayat is arranged accordingly, then only the Gramsabha can become a festival of village democracy's celebration.

In Panchayati Raj, Gramsabha is a primary organisation of adult (18 plus) citizens of a village. The Panchayat members are elected by the members of the Gramsabha. Thus the structure of Panchayati Raj rests on base of Gramsabha.

MEANING OF GRAMSABHA :

In Article 243-B of 73rd constitutional amendment defines Gramsabha as under :

Gramsabha means an organisation of people registered as voters in a franchise list at village level in Panchayat area.

According to aritcle 243-G of the said 73rd constitutional amendment, 'Village' means that part of region which has been notified by the governor by a public notifi-

cation as village or a group of villages as the case many be.

The implications are as under :

(1) A village has to be notified as village by government.

(2) A village means a village or a group of villages.

This means that a Gramsabha could be for one village or for a group of villages.

In short, explaining the meaning of Gramsabha, it can be stated that Gramsabha means an organisation of people registered in a franchise list as voters of the village. Gramsabha is our orgnisation of voters of the village.

Gramsabha is a Parliament of direct voters. That is why, Jay Prakash Narayan, Vinoba and Balwantrai Mehta Committee etc. have emphasised on the significance of Gramsabha.

(Courtsey : 35 years of Panchayati Raj in Gujarat - A review)

Gramsabha is an organisation of voters of the village. In Gujarat Panchayati raj Act, the Gramsabha has three votes :

(1) In the election of Sarpanch.

(2) In the election of President of Taluka Panchayat.

(3) In the electionof President of District Panchayat.

THE POWERS, RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF GRAMSABHA :

It is mendatory to convene the meeting of Gramsabha. One in around May-June and second in November-December could be considered. Besides, the meeting of Gramsabha can also be convened as and when required; which will be a special meeting of Gramsabha. A meeting of the Gramsabha is to be convened by

Sarpanch. It is also provided in the Act that the meeting of Gramsabha can be convened by the orders of the Taluka or District Panchayat. The Sarpanch, while deciding the date of meeting of Gramsabha has to inform to Gramsabha before 15 days. Sarpanch can also convene a meeting of the Gramsabha if there is some emergency situation or when an immediate decision is to be taken, but at least seven days' notice is essential. The Agenda for Gramsabha meeting has to be displayed at the village panchayat office as well as at a public place 7 days before the meeting. Public announcement has to be made on the previous day.

The time of Gramsabha meeting has to be kept in such a way that it is convinient for all the members to attend. The Gramsabha meeting should be held at convinient time for all. Besides, the place for Gramsabha meeting should also be selected in such a way that people may be able to come there comfortably.

The people not having their names in the franchise list as voters have no right to vote in Gramsabha; or to participate in the discussion. They may attend the meeting but they may not express their views. Besides, the officiars of the Taluka Panchayat or MP/MLA can also be invited to Gramsabha but they also have no right to vote. Only those persons having their names on the voters' list and those residents of the villages have right to vote. It is therefore necessary that the village voters become active partners for self-government.

The quorum for Gramsabha meeting is either 10 per cent of total voters of the village or 50 voters which ever is less. But if the meeting of Gramsabha is postponed for want of quorum, the next meeting of Gramsabha convened need not have quoram essential. But the notice for such meeting of Gramsabha etc. should be served as provided earlier. If Sarpanch is not present, the Dy. Sarpanch shall take his position; and in case of absence of both any member of Panchayat present inthe Gramsabha can be elected for presiding over the meeting. This has been provided clearly.

Gramsabha is a very important instrument for successful management of democracy and for new re-construction of a village. It is therefore necessary that Panchayat gets support, guidance and co-operation from village people. In Gramsabha :

- A statement of annual accounts is to be presented.
- A report of the administration of the previous financial year is to be presented.
- A programme for development and other activities for the current financial year is also to be presented.

The members of village panchayat are elected by the total village voters. These elected members administer the funds and assets of the village Panchayat in accordance with rules and regulations. The income of village panchayat is collected from people of the village and it is spent onthe welfare of the people of village only. The works of development of village and other programmes are also carried out in the interest of people of the village. If it is so, it is not fair that onlyfew persons administer the affairs and the rest of the villagers donot know anything about it. So, Gramsabha which is convened twice a year, has got right to advise the elected members of the village Panchayat and can oversee the administration of the village panchayat. In Gramsabha meeting, the Gram Panchayat has to present its report as well as planning of activities to be undertaken next year. The Gram Sabha has to accord an approval to the financial working of the Panchayat. Sarpanch of village Panchayat is bound to reply to the querries raised on the annual budget of the Panchayat. Thus, a Sarpanch is ultimately responsible to Gramsabha.

If any member of the Gramsabha wants to place a proposal in the Gramsabha meeting, he has to submit it to Sarpanch or in his absence to the Deputy Sarpanch two days in advance of a meeting. The Sarpanch can decide whether the proposal to be placed before the Gramsabha or not. If the proposal is defamatory, if the

language used in the proposal is offending, if the proposal is against the public interest, such proposals are not accepted. If the proposal cannot be accepted on any other ground except those mentioned above, such proposals are placed before the panchayat; and the panchayat decides whether to accept the proposal or not. In such cases, the decision of Panchayat is final; as provided in the rules. It is also provided a village panchayat meeting is to be convened on the previous day of the Gramsabha meeting. Wherein all the issues to be discussed in Gramsabha are to be discussed in this meeting.

As stated earlier, the venue of Gramsabha should be either the office of the Panchayat or a "Chora" of the village or any convinient public place so that maximum number of members remain present in the Gramsabha meeting.

In each Gramsabha meeting, the proceedings of the previous meeting is to be read out and it has to be signed by the person presiding over the meeting. No any other business can be transeted in Gramsabha meeting except with the permission of the Chairman. Usually the issues to be taken up in the meeting of Gramsabha should be taken up as per serial number of the agenda items. If the items remains undiscussed, next meeting can be planned to take up those items on the day, date, time and place as decided by the Chairman in consultation with the members present.

Usually the agenda items for the Gramsabha meeting is to be taken in following order :

(1) Reading out of proceeding of the previous meeting.

(2) Reading out of changes made in Hakka patra record. This is to be read out be Panchayat Secretary for information of the Gramsabha.

(3) Action Taken Report on Gramsabha decisions.

(4) Important decisions taken by Panchayat since the meeting or previous Gramsabha.

(5) Question - Anawers.

(6) Income - expenditure statement.

(7) Report of the Auditor and complience in respect of querries raised in the report.

(8) Annual Budget, plans/schemes, resolutions, programmes etc.

The Chairman can reject any discussion on the proposal it he feels it to be not within the scope of panchayat. While rejecting such discussion on the proposal, he has to take note of the same in writing.

Gramsabha can discuss all the proposals which are acceptable to the meeting. Chairman will take decisions on the issues raised during such discussion and his decisions will be considered final.

The duty of the Chairman is to conduct the proceedings of Gramsabha meeting and to maintain the arrangements. He can use all his powers to this end.

If any member defy the rights of the Chairman, or behaves in such a way that the proceedings get disturbed or behaves in an assaulting menner, the Chairman can drive such member out of the meeting. The proceedings of the Gramsabha meeting are to be kept in a bound register in Gujarati language, and its copy is to be submitted to Taluka Development Officer or any other officer authorised in this behalf by the Taluka Panchayat within seven days.

All the decisions on the issues presented before the Gramsabha are to be taken by a majority votes of the members present. In case of equal votes on both the sides, the Chairman will have a casting vote.

SIGNIFICANCE OF GRAMSABHA :

In Panchayati Raj, Gramsabha is a base of decisive democratic organisation. In a nation's democratic system, Parliament and State Legislative Assembly are im-

portant institutions. The same importance is assigned to Gramsabha in village Panchayat areas. The village community can get the training of village leadership and democracy through Gramsabha. Gramsabha makes people awakened. Gramsabha provides an opportunity to undertake the works of rural re-construction. Gramsabha provides on opportunity to bring out the hidden potentials of the village people. This can carve new milestones of leadership and development.

WHAT MEASURES ARE NECESSARY FOR SUCCESSFUL AND EFECTIVE GRAMSABHA ?

Gramsabha is meant for motivating people to take interests in the administration of village panchayat and to give active contribution in this. That is any Gramsabha is considered to be basis of Panchayati Raj.

(1) There is a need to give a fresh thought to basic issues of Panchayati Raj, if the Gramsabha is not aware and active. Actually, the village panchayat has to start its process of developmnt as per the desire of Gramsabha. Instead, the people of the village have to accept what is told and decided by a few members of the Panchayt. Thus, the Panchayati Raj of to-day is a reverse process, a process of up-side down. Therefore, it is necessary to bring the fundamental change in law. This needs to be considered.

(2) Gramsabha can make suggestions; and the decision for the implementation is to be taken by Panchayat. There should be some kind of synchronising between these two. It should be provided for that the panchayat is obliged to take decisions as per Gramsabha's suggestions. As the cabinet of Ministers are supposed to take action on the decisions of Loksabha or the Legislative Assembly; the similar situation needs to be developed for Gramsabha vis-a-vis-village Pånchayat. Gramsabha should be given effective importance. That only will ensure democratic decentralisation.

As observed by our popular Prime Minister of India, Shri Atal Bihari Bajpai, 73rd constitutional amendment is that kind of constitutional law which leads to the direction of empowered Gramsabha, and in real sense of the term leads to Rural self government; because all the villagers above the age of 18 are the members of Gramsabha and they have an absolute right to make their future. Gramsabha is a platform where the depressed and the poorest people have their voice in taking decisions affecting their lives.

GRAMSABHA :

According to the Ministry of Rural Development of Government of India.

(1) Will prepare an outline of development programmes to be undertaken in a village and will implement it on priority base.

(2) Will accord sanction to annual plan for the village panchayat.

(3) Will ensure the active participation of women, schedule castes and schedule tribes.

(4) Will bring transperency in the working of village panchayat.

(5) Will conduct social auditing of the village panchayat.

(6) Will identify the benificiaries for Indira Awas Yojana, Jawahar Gram Samruddhi Yojana and Gram Swarojgar Yojana.

(7) Will sanction the works under Jawahar Gram Samriddhi Yojana.

(8) Will be actively involved in the direction of getting total control on management of natural resources of the village.

It will hold its meeting atleast four times a year - 26th January, 1st May, 15th August and 2nd October are preferable dates. Gramsabha has a bright future, because the future of rural people is bright.

CHAPTER-4

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE RESPONDENTS (VILLAGERS)

INTRODUCTION :

The village Panchayat is a very significant unit of our rural culture and administration. When our constitution was framed after an independence, Mahatma Gandhi had observed : "The focal point of power to-day is in metropolitan cities like Delhi or Calcutta or Mumbai, but I wish that this power is distributed among seven lakhs villages." In order to materialise this ideal of Gandhiji, to-day with the instrument like 73rd constitutional amendment, states have been directed to consitute the panchayats and delegate them the powers of self-government. The assence of success of these panchayats is people's awareness. For preserving the freedom of nation also, eternal vigilence is necessary. panchayati Raj being a sustainable system of total development of village community with their co-operation and involvement, both the awareness and partnership of people are most essential. If the villagers extend their co-operation and involvement and if they remain present in Gramsabha meeting and participate actively in the development works of the village, the development of village will be carried out in a better way. In this study, we have dealt with the aspects of awareness of villagers and their opinions about Gramsabha. For the survey study of Gramsabha, the centre has selected the respondents from five districts. We have discussed in this Chapter about the Socio-economic conditions of the respondents.

THE TALUKAS AND VILLAGES SELECTED FROM VALSAD DISTRICT.

We have selected two talukas from Valsad and Navsari District. (1) Valsad Taluka (2) Vansada Taluka.

(1) Villages selected from Valsad Taluka.

(1) Alama (2) Marla (3) Pardi Pargera (4) Ronwel (5) Tithal

(2) Villages selected from Vansada Taluka.

(1) Pipolkhed (2) Dhodwal (3) Kaudej (4) Vadi Chaundha (5) Kelia.

Thus totally 10 villages are covered under study from Valsad and Navsari Districts.

(1) Social conditions of respondents (Villagers) from Valsad and Navsari Districts.

Following details of the social conditions of respondents (villagers) from Valsad and Navsari Districts are found :

Table 4.1

Table showing the caste or respondetns.

Sr. No.	Caste	Number	Percentage
1.	Tribal	43	86
2.	Baxipanch (SSBC)	07	14
	Total	**50**	**100**

It is evident from the table that people from tribal community are more in number in selected villages of Valsad and Vansada taluka. They are 43 in number i.e. 86 per cent, and the Baxipanch community (SEBC) are least in number, i.e. only 7 which means 14 per cent.

Considering this, there are more tribals than any other community in these two talukas. They are Ghodia, Kukana, Kotwadia, Kolcha, Varli etc. tribe communities; but the people other than tribals are comparitively less in number.

Table No.4.2

Table showing Age of respondents

Sr.No.	Age	Number	Percentage
1.	18 - 30 Years	04	08
2.	31 - 40 Years	11	22
3.	41 - 50 Years	18	36
4.	51 - 60 Years	13	26
5.	Morethan 61	04	08
	Total	**50**	**100**

It is clarified from the above table that in the selected villages of Valsad and Vansada taluka, the number of young respondents, i.e. between the age group of 18 to 30 years is 4, which is 8 per cent. The no.of respondents between the age group of 31 to 40 years is 11, that is 22 per cent. The 18 respondents (36 per cent) belong to age group to 41 to 50 years and the respondents between the age group of 51 to 60 years is 13, i.e. 26 per cent. In the age group of 61 years and above the number of respondents is 4, which is 8 per cent.

Viewing this table, it becomes clear that the maximum number of respondetns belong to age group of 41 to 50 years and the least number belongs to age-group of 18 to 30 years as well as to age 61 years and above. So, these are the respondents, who have been contacted for the Gramsabha evaluation study.

Table No. 4.3

Table showing education level of respondents

Sr.No.	Details	Number	Percentage
1.	Illiterate	08	16
2.	Can read & write	03	06
3.	Primary level	27	54
4.	Secondary level	10	20
5.	Higher Education	02	04
	Total	**50**	**100**

Following becomes clear from the above table regarding respondents of Valsad and Vansada Taluka.

- 8 respondents are illiterate (16 per cent)
- There are 3 respondents (6 per cent) which can only read and write.
- Those who have been educated upto primary level are 27 persons (54 per cent)
- Those who have reached upto secondary level are 10 (20 per cent)
- Those who have taken the higher education (college level) are 2 (4 per cent)

Thus, maximum number of respondents have been educated upto primary level and the least number of participants have been educated upto higher education level. One an average, the level of education of the respondents is fairly good.

Table No. 4.4

Table showing condition of House

Sr.No.	Details	Number	Percent
1.	Kutcha house	40	80
2.	Pucca house	10	20
	Total	**50**	**100**

The table is self explanatory. There are 40 (80 per cent) respondents, having a Kutcha house and only10 (20 percent) respondents having a pucca house.

A pucca house has brick walls. There are manglory tiles on the roof or a RCC slab. However, most of the houses have tiles (Manglory or indegenous type) rather than RCC slab.

A Kutcha house has walls made of clay or sometimes made from thin wooden strips. On the roof, they have bamboo chips to accomodate the arrangement of tiles on the roof. This is how a kutcha house is built.

In the villages of Valsad Taluka / District, practically each one except one participant, had the houses of their own. Only one respondent (2 per cent) has a rented house. The tribals, usually stay on their own land, where they build their own house. That is now, they are owners of house.

Examining the marital status of the respondents, it was revealed that all the respondents, it was revealed that all the respondents were married. None of the respondents was unmarried or widowed or a widow. All are married.

THE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF RESPONDETNS (Village people)

Following table indicates the economic conditions of the respondents from the selected talukas of Valsad district :

Table No. 4.5

Table showing the main Occupation of respondents

Sr.NO.	Details	Number	Percent
1.	Agriculture	43	86
2.	Trade / Commerce	02	04
3.	Casual Labour	03	06
4.	Job	02	04
	Total	**50**	**100**

It emerges from the above table, that agriculture is the main accupation of the respondetns, which is followed by 43 persons (86 percent). Only 2 persons (4 percent) are occupied in commercial activity, and casual labour is the occupation in respect of 3 persons (6 per cent). Those having a job as main occupation are 2 respondents i.e. 4 per cent.

Thus clearly, agriculture is the main occupation in case of most of the respondents. The least number of respondents follow commerce or job (4 per cent each) obviously due to low level of education, very few persons can go for a job. 6 per cent of respondents have no other source of income; and therefore they go for casual labour and somehow maintain their families. The land is limited, therefore one has to do hard labour and raise supplementory incomes through supplementary occupation.

Table No. 4.6

Table showing supplementory occupation of the respondents (village people)

Sr.No.	Details	Number	Percent
1.	Animal Husbandry	05	10
2.	Commerce	03	06
3.	Agriculture Labour	42	84
	Total	**50**	**100**

It can be judged from the above table that among supplementry occupation, the agricultural labour tops the list, followed by animal husbandry with least number of persons following commercial activity. This is a mirror to see the substistence level of respondents. Supplementory occupation indicates 42 number (86 per cent) in agriculture labours 5 numbers (10 per cent) in animal husbandry and only 3 number (6 percent) in commerce.

Table No.4.7

Table showing whether respondents have land or not

Sr.No.	Details	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	45	90
2.	No	05	10
	Total	**50**	**100**

It is obvious from this table that in the villages of Valsad and Vansada taluka selected for study, 45 respondetns i.e. 90 percent have land and 5 persons 10 percent do not own any land. It is interesting to examine the holding of land with those who have.

Table 4.8

Table showing holding of land with respondents (Village people)

Sr.No.	Details	Number	Percent
1.	1 to 5 acres of land	29	58
2.	6 to 10 acres of land	12	24
3.	11 to 15 acres of land	03	06
4.	16 to 20 acres of land	05	10
5.	Not having land at all	05	10
	Total	**50**	**100**

There are 29 respondents (58 percent) having 1 to 5 acres of land; 12 respondents (24 percent) having 6 to 10 acres of land; 3 respondents (6 per cent) having 11 to 15 acres of land and 1 respondent having 16 to 20 acres of land. In last category, we have 5 respondetns (10 per cent) having no land at all.

Thus more no.of respondents have 1 to 5 acres of land (a small holding) and only one respondent (2 per cent) has larger holding of 16 to 20 acres of land.

All the land shown in above table is cultivable agriculture land. The respondents use the non-cultivable, barron or waste land for construction of their houses, so that cultivable land is not wasted. Thus the land indicated in the table is cultivable.

What do they grow on this land ? The main crops are paddy, Sugarcane, Tuver, Urad etc. Among fruits, they grow Mango, Jamfal, Chikao etc. Most of the agriculturist take paddy and Sugarcane. Besides they take Tuver and Urad in some cases. Only one respondent (2 percent) takes 2 crops in a year. Onlyone having an irrigation facility on land takes two crops; whereas those dependent onlyon monsoon can take one crop from the land. Among irrigation facilities, there are few wells or

rivers; and the water is not adequate enough for irrigation. Thus, generally one crop is a reality for practically all the agriculturists.

Table No.4.9

Table showing the existance of irrigation facility

Sr.No.	Details	Number	Percent
1	Yes	20	40
2	No	30	60
	Total	**50**	**100**

There are 20 respondents (40 per cent) having irrigation facility and 30 (60 per cent) having no irrigation facility.

Thus more number of respondents donot have irrigation facility, only 40 per cent have some such facility, in form of canal and river. Those who donot have the facility hire the facility or totally depend on rain. The average rain fall in Valsad district is comparitively higher, and the land is also fertile. So, the agriculturists can take good yeild at less efforts.

Table 4.10

Table showing annual family income of the respondents

Sr.No.	Details	Number	Percent
1.	Below 5,000	16	32
2.	Between 5,000 to 10,000	13	26
3.	Between 10,000 & 20,000	07	14
4.	Between 20,000 & 30,000	06	12
5.	Between 30,000 & 40,000	07	14
6.	40,000 more	01	02
	Total	**50**	**100**

It is seen from the above table that there are 16 respondents (32 per cent) having their annual family income below Rs. 5,000/- 13 respondents (26 per cent) having income between 5,000-/ to 10,000/-; 7 respondents (14 per cent) having income between 10,000/- and 20,000/-; 6 respondents (12 per cent) having income between 20,000/- & 30,000/-; 7 respondents (14 per cent) having income between 30,000/- to 40,000/- and only 1 respondent (2 per cent) having income above Rs. 40,000/-.

Thus, more number of respondetns have their total annual family income just below Rs. 5,000/- only; whereas onlyone respondent has an annual income above Rs. 40,000/-. This table reffects the poor economic conditions of most of the respondents.

Table No.4.11

Table showing Annual Family Expenditure of the respondents

Sr.No.	Annual Family Income	Number	Percent
1.	Below 5,000	21	42
2.	Between 5,000 to 10,000	09	18
3.	Between 10,000 to 20,000	07	14
4.	Between 20,000 to 30,000	06	12
5.	Between 30,000 to 40,000	06	12
6.	Rs.40,000/- & more	01	02
	Total	**50**	**100**

It we analyse the above table, we find that 21 respondents (42 per cent) have their annual family expenditure below Rs.5,000/-; there are 9 respondetns (18 per cent) having annual family expenditure between 6,000/- to 10,000; 7 respondents

(14 per cent) having annual expenditure between 10,000/- to 20,000/-; 6 respondetns (12 per cent) between 20,000/- to 30,000/-; 6 respondents (12 per cent) the annual expenditure between 30,000/- to 40,000/- and only one respondent having total family annual expenditure above Rs. 40,000/-.

Thus, maximum number of respondents belong to lowest expenditure spectrum below Rs.5,000/- for the whole year. Obviously when they donot have more income, they donot have more money to sepnd.

Table No. 4.12

Table showing the amount of Debt.

Sr.No.	Whether they have incurred Debt	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	18	36
2.	No	32	64
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus, it becomes clear that 18 persons (36 per cent) have incurred debt; but 32 respondents (64 per cent) have not incurred any debt. Thus more than one third respondents have incurred some debt.

Table 4.13

Source of Debt

Sr.No.	Details	Number	Percent
1.	From Bank	12	24
2.	From Money lander	03	06
3.	From relatives	03	06
4.	Those not having debt	32	64
	Total	**50**	**100**

The table indicates that 12 respondents (24 per cent) of Valsad & Vansada taluka have incurred debt from the bank; 3 of there (6 percent) from the Money lender and another 3 (6 per cent) from the relatives also. As seen earlier, 32 (64 per cent) have not incured any debt.

Those who have taken bank-loan is for the purpose of a shop, a buffalow etc. It is indeed a good sign that more people have turned to bank instead of money lenders.

Table No.4.14

Table showing the purpose of Debt.

Sr.No.	Details (Purpose)	Number	Percent
1.	For Agricultural development	06	12
2.	For construction of a house	01	02
3.	For Marriage	06	12
4.	For other occupation	05	10
5.	Not having debt	32	64
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus, analysing this table, it because clear that 6 respondents (12 per cent) have incurred debt for the development of agriculture, one respondent (2 per cent) has taken debt for construction of a house, 6 respondents (12 per cent) have incurred debt for social purpose such as marriage of their son/daughter; 5 respondents (10 per cent) have incurred debt for some other occupations. As seen earlier, 32 respondents have not incurred any debt.

Thus, more respondents have incurred debt for agriculture improvement and social purpose like marriage. Only one respondent (2 per cent) have taken debt for construction of a house.

Table No. 4.15

Table showing the amount of debt.

Sr.No.	Details (Amount)	Number	Percent
1.	Below Rs. 10,000	10	20
2.	Between 10,000/- to 20,000/-	05	10
3.	Between 20,000 to 30,000/-	01	02
4.	Between 30,000 to 40,000/-	02	04
5.	Persons not having debt	32	64
	Total	**50**	**100**

The table is very obvious.

The respondents who have incurred the debt below Rs. 10,000 are 10 (20 per cent) in number. Those who have incurred debt between 10,000/- to 20,000/- are 5 (10 per cent) in number. Those who have incurred debt between Rs. 20,000/- to 30,000/- are only1 person (2 per cent). Those who have incurred debt between Rs. 30,000/- to 40,000/- are 2 (4 per cent). As seen earlier, 32 persons out of 50 (64 per cent) have not incurred any debt.

There are more no.of respondents 10 (20 per cent) having incurred debt below Rs.10,000/- and there are very fees respondents (only 1 i.e. 2 per cent) who has incurred dbet between R. 20,000/- to 30,000/-.

2. VADODARA DISTRICT

Talukas and Village selected from Vadodara District :

Two talukas have been selected for this study from Vadodara district :

(1) Vadodara and (2) Chhota Udepur. Totally 10 villages have been selected from these two talukas at five from each taluka. The villages are as under :

(1) Villages selected from Vadodara Taluka.

(1) Chhani (2) Dasharath (3) Sakarda, (4) Kalyanpura & (5) Undera

(2) Villages selected from Chhota Udepur Taluka

(1) Ronwad (2) Dhelwant (3) Dhandhoda (4) Singla (5) Gabadia

Thus 10 villages from two talukas of Vadodara district have been selected for the study.

Socia-economic conditions of the respondents (village people) of Vadodara district :

The social picture of respondents of Vadodara district has been found as detailed below :

Table No. 4.16

Table showing the caste of the Respondents

Sr.No.	Details	Number	Percentage
1.	Patel	04	08
2.	Rajput	05	10
3.	Harijan	18	36
4.	Tribals	18	36
5.	Rabari	03	06
6.	Muslim	02	04
	Total	**50**	**100**

It becomes evident from the above table that both Harijans and Tribals are in large number i.e. 18 each. The least number of respondents are fromMuslim community. They are only2 (i.e. 4 per cent) Among others, there are 4 Patels (8 percent), 5 Rajputs (10 per cent) and 3 Rabari (6 per cent).

Thus both Harijans and Tribals out number other respondents. In Vadodara districts the tribals are principally Rathwa, Tadvi etc. The Muslim respondents for the study are least in number.

Table No. 4.17

Table showing the age of respondetns

Sr.No.	Details (Age)	Number	Percent
1.	18 to 30years	09	18
2.	31 to 40 years	17	34
3.	41 to 50 years	22	44
4.	51 to 60 years	02	04
	Total	**50**	**100**

The young respondents in the age group of 18 to 30 years, 9 (18 percent). The respondents in the age gruop of 31-40 are 17 (34 per cent); those in the age group of 41 yrs. to 50 yrs. are 22 (44 percent) in number; and those in the elderly age group of 51 to 60 years are only 2 (4 per cent). Thus the maximum number of respondents (22) are from age group of 41 - 50 years; and the least number of respondetns (2) are from the age group of 51 - 60 years.

- Maximum No.of respondents 22 (44 per cent) from age group of 41 - 50 yrs.
- Least no.of respondents 2 (4 per cent) from age group of 51- 60 years.

Table No. 4.18

Table showing the levelof education

Sr.No.	Details (level of education)	Number	Percentage
1.	Illiterate	05	10
2.	Can read and write	02	04
3.	Primary level	23	46
4.	Secondary level	19	38
5.	Higher Secondary level	01	02
	Total	**50**	**100**

The above table indicates that 5 respondents i.e. 10 per cent are totally illiterate and 2 respondents (i.e. 4 per cent) can only read and write. The respondents who have reached the primary level of education are 23 i.e. 46 per cent and those who have reached upto secondary level are 19 (38 per cent). The number of respondent who has acquired higher education is only 1 person. (i.e. 2 per cent)

Thus, the maximum number of respondents are among the primary school level, followed by the secondary level of education. The least number of participants are Higher Secondary level (only one participant). There are some participants also who are either illiterate or those who can only read and write or those who have reached upto middle school level.

Table No. 4.19

Table showing the condition of House

Sr.No.	Details	Number	Per cent
1.	Kutcha houses	08	16
2.	Pucca houses	42	84
	Total	**50**	**100**

The above table shows that 8 perticipants (16 per cent) have Kutcha houses and 42 participants (84 per cent) have pucca houses. This is an indicator showing the improvement in their economic conditions. In Vadodara district, as evident from above table maximum (84 per cent) respondents stay in pucca houses and very few (16 per cent) respondents stay in Kuchha houses. Besides, an respondetns, without any exception, stay in their own houses and none stays in a rented house.

As regards the marital status of the respondents of Vadodara district, the information revealed that all the respondents of this district are married. None of them is unmarried or widow divorced etc. All are married.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF RESPONDENTS :

The economic conditions of the respondents (i.e. village people) of selected villages from Vadodra district were studied during this study. The details available from this is reflected below :

Table No. 4.20

Table showing Man Occupations of the respondents

Sr.No.	Details of main occupation	Number	Per cent
1.	Agriculture	44	88
2.	Commerce / Trade	03	06
3.	Animal Housbandry	01	02
4.	Job/Service	02	04
	Total	**50**	**100**

It becomes clear from the above table that most of the respondents of Vadodara district are having agriculture as the main occupation. 44 out of 50 (88 per cent) respondents follow this occupation. Only 3 (6 per cent) respondents have commerce/ trading as their main occupation, whereas respondent having animal-husbandry as the main occupation is only one (3 per cent). Two respondents (4 per cent) are having are employed in service as main occupation.

Analysing the above fingers, it can be generalised that agriculture is a main source of economic activity in respect of most of the respondents, whereas animals husbandry is followed as main source of income by least number of particiapnts. Commerce/Trade or petty job as main source of income is followed by a few number of respondents.

Obviously it can be derived that most of the respondents hold land; and as such they follow agriculture as main occupation; but those who donot have cultivable land, resort to other occupations such as animal husbandry, job or some trading.

Table No. 4.21

Table showing the subsidiary occupationof the respondents

Sr.No.	Details of subsidiary occupation	Number	Percent
1.	Animal Husbandry	22	44
2.	Commerce/Trade	05	10
3.	Agriculture Labour	15	30
4.	Other occupation	08	16
	Total	**50**	**100**

It becomes clear from this table that more no.of respondents of Vadodara district having agriculture as subsidiary occupation are 22 (44 percent). Those having commerce or trading as subsidiary occupation are 5 respondents (10 percent); those having agriculture labouras subsidiary occupation are 15 (30 per cent) respondents; and those having otheroccupation as subsidiary source of livelihood are 8 (16 per cent) respondents. These other occupations include camel cart, labour in factory, carpentry, blacksmithy etc.

The analysis of above data indicates that respondents having animal housbandry as subsidiary occupation are largest in number, followed by those engaged in agriculture labour. The least no.of respondents are engaged in commerce or trading. The rest of the respondents follow one or other subsidiary occupation to supplement their income.

Table No.4.22

Table showing whether respondents have land or not

Sr.No.	Detail	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	45	90
2.	No.	05	10
	Total	**50**	**100**

This is a simple table and clearly shows that 45 respondents (90 per cent) of Vadodara district possess their own land; whereas 5 respondents (10 per cent) donot have any land in their possession. Thus, practically, most of the people possess land; and very few people donot possess land. It can be easily infered that on an average, the respondents have reasonably good economic conditions.

Table No.4.23

Table showing the holding of land

Sr.No.	Details regarding holding of land	Number	Percent
1.	1 to 5 acres	05	10
2.	6 to 10 acres	32	64
3.	11 to 15 acres	06	12
4.	16 to 20 acres	05	10
5.	No land in possesion	05	10
	Total	**50**	**100**

Analysing the above lable, it becomes clear that 5 persons (10 per cent) are having small piece of land, that is, below 5 acres. Those having land between 6 to 10 acres of land are 32 persons (64 per cent) and those having 11 to 15 acres of land

are 2 respondetns (4 per cent). It was told earlier that 5 respondents (10 per cent) donot possess any land.

The land shown above is cultivable. The crops like Maize, Paddy, Sugar-cane, Ground-nut, Juwar, Urad, Tuver, Tobacco, Green-bin etc. are produced in the land in Vadodara district. The respondents of this district takes mostly paddy maize, Ground-nut, Juwar, Urda, Tuver etc. Some of the respondents also take Sugar cane, Tobacco, Green-bin etc. 44 per cent respondents take only one crop in a year (monsoon crops), whereas 56 per cent of respondents take two crops in a year, on their land.

Thus majority of the respondents take two crops; but less than half of the respondents take only one crop from their land.

30 respondents (60 per cent) of respondents in Vadodara district have one or the other irrigation facility; and 15 respondents (30 per cent) donot have any irrigation facility. They are dependent only on monsoon rains for their crops. As reported earlier, 5 respondents (10 per cent) donot have any land; and as such there is no problem of irrigation for them.

Table No.4.24

Table showing annual income of the respondents

Sr.No.	Details of Income Rs.	Number	Percent
1.	Below Rs. 10,000	06	12
2.	Rs.10,000 to 20,000	23	46
3.	Rs.20,000 to 30,000	09	18
4.	Rs.30,000 to 40,000	05	10
5.	Above Rs.40,000	07	14
	Total	**50**	**100**

This table clearly indicates the income level of respondents (people from Vadodara district), 6 respondents (12 percent) have a ..... income of below Rs. 10,000/-, 23 respondents (46 per cent) have their annual income between Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/-, 9 respondents (18 percent) have their income between Rs. 20,000/- to Rs.30,000/-. There are 5 respondents (10 percent) who belong to the income bracket of Rs. 30,000/- to 40,000/- and 7 fortunate respondents (14 percent) are able to earn Rs. 40,000/- to Rs. 50,000/-.

Thus, quite a good number of respondents belong to the income bracket of Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/- (46 percent), whereas very few respondents (10 per-cent) earn as much as Rs. 30,000/- to 40,000/- per anum. It can be concluded that the respondents, by and large, belong to middle class income. On an average, the economic conditions of the larger number of respondents is fairly good, except in case of about 12 per cent participants and obviously belong to BPL category.

Table 4.25

Table showing annual level of Expenditure

Sr.No.	Details of annual Exp.Rs.	Number	Percent
1.	Below 5,000	01	02
2.	Between 5,000 to 10,000	19	38
3.	Between 10,000 to 20,000	21	42
4.	Between 20,000 to 30,000	04	08
5.	Between 30,000 to 40,000	05	10
	Total	**50**	**100**

This table reflects the level of expenditure of the respondents of Vadodara District. Only one respondent shows the annual expenditure below Rs. 5,000/-,

whereas other 19 respondents (38 percent) spend annually Rs. 5,000/- to 10,000/- 21 respondents (42 per cent) spend Rs. 10,000/- to 20,000/- annually, 4 respondents (8 per cent) spend annually Rs. 21,000/- to 30,000/-. Lastly, there are 5 respondents (10 per cent) spend annually Rs. 30,000/- to 40,000/-.

Thus, there are more number of respondents in the expenditure bracket of 10,000/- to 20,000/- and least number of participants spends just meagre amount below Rs. 5,000/-.

If we compare the table no. 4.24 and 4.25, it transpires that the respondents spend less than what they earn.

Table No.4.26

Table showing if the respondents name incurred any debt

Sr.No.	Details	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	17	34
2.	No	33	66
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus 17 respodents (34 percent) have incurred some debt, but quite a large number 33 (66 percent) have not incurred any debt. Those not having debt out number those having some debt.

Table No.4.27

Table showing source of debt of the respondent

Sr.No.	Detal (source of debt)	Number	Percent
1.	From Bank	17	34
2.	No. debt.	-	-
	Total	17	34

As shown in the table above, 17 respondents (34 percent) have incurred debt from only bank, whereas 33 respondents (66 per cent) have not incurred any debt.

An inquiry revealed that the bank loan was obtained for a shop or for development of agriculture etc. The following table indicates more details :

Table No.4.28

Table showing purpose of the Debt.

Sr.No.	Details (purpose)	Number	Percent
1.	For Development of Agriculture	13	26
2.	For business	04	08
3.	Not having any debt	33	66
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus, 13 respondents (26 percent) have incurred the debt from bank for development of their agriculture; and those having incurred the debt for some business on 4 (8 percent). As clarified earlier, that 33 respondents (66 percent) have not incurred any debt.

Thus, those having incurred debt for agriculture development have out numbered those respondent who have incurred debt for business.

Table No. 4.29

Table showing amount of debt by respondents

Sr.No.	Details Amount of Debt.	Number	Training
1.	Below Rs. 10,000	10	20
2.	Rs.10,000/- to 20,000/-	07	14
3.	Those not having debt	33	66
	Total	**50**	**100**

The table reflects the amount of debt incurred by the respondents of Vadodara district. There are 10 respondents (20 per cent) having the amount of debt below Rs. 10,000/- whereas, there are 7 respondents (14 per cent) having the debt amounting between Rs. 10,000/- and Rs.20,000/-. It was mentioned earlier that 33 respondents (66 per cent) didnot incur any debt whatsover.

If we analyse these figures it indicates that most of the respondents didnot incur any debt, but out of those who have incurred some debts, more number of people have lesser amount of debt, and less number of people have incurred more amount of debt. On the whole respondents of Vadodara district donot have a large burden of debt. Though some people have incurred some debt, the amount of debt is reasonable and it is within their reach of repayment.

3. KUTCH DISTRICT

The selected talukas and Villages of Kutch District.

Two talukas of Kutch district have been selected for the study - Bhuj and Mandvi. 10 villages from these two talukas have been selected, the details of which are as under :

(1) Villages selected from Bhuj Taluka.

(1) Bhujodi (2) Deshalpar (3) Golpar (4) Chhachhala (5) Vadasar.

(2) Villages selected fromMandvi Taluka.

(1) Mota Layja (2) Moti Rayan (3) Durgapar (4) Bhinsara (5) Tanakpur.

In this way, 10 villages of Kutch District have been taken for study.

Socio-Economic conditions of respondents (village people) of Kutch District.

The Socio-Economic conditions of people of Kutch has been found as under, as reflected in case of 50 respondents (village people) from the 10 above maintioned villages.

Table No. 4.30

Table showing caste of respondents

Sr.No.	Detail (caste)	Number	Percent
1.	Patel	19	38
2.	Harijan	08	16
3.	Tribals	01	02
4.	Baxipanch (Rabari)	10	20
5.	Muslim	12	24
	Total	**50**	**100**

The above table shows the castes of the respondents of Kutch district. There are 19 (38 percent) Patels; 8 (16 percent) Harijans; 01 (2 percent) tribal; 10 (20 percent) from Baxipanch, i.e. socially and educationally Backward Communities. SEBC; and 12 (24 percent) Muslims.

Thus, we have a cross-section of almost all castes & communities in more or less number. The maximum number of respondents are from Patel community; and least no.of respondents from Tribals. In Kutch, as such the population of tribal is very less, where as, people from other castes communities like Harijan, Muslims, Baxipanch etc. are there. Thus, we have a mirror of society in our respondents.

Table No.4.31

Table showing Age of the respondents

Sr.No.	Details (Age)	Number	Percent
1.	18 to 30 years	09	18
2.	31 to 40 years	14	28
3.	41 to 50 years	14	28
4.	51 to 60 years	08	16
5.	61 and more	05	10
	Total	**50**	**100**

The table indicates that the younger respondents in the age-group of 18-30 years are 9 (18 per cent), those between the age-group of 31 to 40 are 14 (28 per cent), those belonging to 41 to 50 years are also 14 (28 per cent), those between the age groupof 51 to 60 years are 8 (16 percent) and those in the age group of 61 and above are 5 (10 per cent)

The respondents are fairly distributed in each age-bracket, but maximum number are found in both 31-40 yrs. and 41-50 years (14-14 each). These both to-gether are more than half of the respondents (56 per cent). The least number of respondents are from age group 61 and above. They are just 10 per cent of the total.

Table No. 4.32

Table showing education level of respondents

Sr.No.	Details (Age-group)	Number	Percent
1.	Illiterate	15	30
2.	Can only read & write	02	04
3.	Primary level	25	50
4.	Secondary level	05	10
5.	Higher level	03	06
	Total	**50**	**100**

This table shows the education level of the respondents of Kutch district in the selected villages. There are as many as 15 (30 percent) who are totally illiterate. Besides, there are 2 more persons (4 percent) who can only read and write. If we go to those respondents who are literate/educated; we find that the number of respondents gradually declive as we go to upper level. e.g. The number of respondents who have reached upto primary level are 25 (50 percent); those who have reached upto secondary level are 5 (10 per cent) and those who have reached upto higher education level are only 3 (6 percent).

If we analyse the figures still further, it reflects that maximum number of respondents of have Kutch district have studied upto primary education level; and the least number of respondents have obtained higher education. The number of totally illiterate respondents is also fairly high at 30 percent.

Table No. 4.33

Table showing the condition of houses of the respondents

Sr.No.	Details of houses	Number	Percent
1.	Kutcha House	21	42
2.	Pucca House	29	58
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus 21 respondents (42 percent) reside in Kutcha houses and 29 respondents (58 percent) reside in pucca houses in Kutch District.

Thus, quite a good number of respondents own pucca houses; whereas some respondents own kutcha houses.

It was further revealed that all (both kutcha house) are owned by the respondents, except in case of one respondent (2 percent) who is residing in a rented house, 98 percent respondents have their own houses. Usually they construct the houses on their own piece of land.

It was also revealed that the marital status of all the respondents is the same they all are marited. None of them was either signle or widowed.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE RESPONDENTS :

The economic conditions of the respondents from the selected villages of Kutch district will be revealed from the details below :

Table No. 4.34

Table showing main occupation of the respodents

Sr.No.	Detail (Main Occupation)	Number	Percent
1.	Agriculture	22	44
2.	Commerce/Trade	03	06
3.	Animal Husbandry	10	20
4.	Agriculture Labour	11	22
5.	Weaving	01	02
6.	Job/Employment	03	06
	Total	**50**	**100**

This table indicates the main occupations of the respondents of Kutch district.

22 respondents (44 percent) have agriculture as their main occupation; 3 (6 percent) are engaged in small trading business; 10 (20 percent) follow animal husbandry as main occupation, one respondent (2 percent) is engaged in weaving work; whereas 3 respondents (6 percent) have takenup employment as main occupation.

If we further analyse this table, it transpires that the maximum number of respondents have agriculture as the main occupation; followed by agriculture labour (11) and animal husbandry (10) equal numbers (3 each) follow trade or a job, but the least number (1) is in the occupation of weaving.

Table No.4.35

Table showing the subsidiary occupation of the respondents

Sr.No.	Details (Subsidiary occupation)	Number	Percent
1.	Animal Husbandry	13	26
2.	Trading/commerce	08	16
3.	Agriculture labour	27	54
4.	Others	02	04
	Total	**50**	**100**

The table shows the respondents following subsidiary occupation. It is seen that is respondents (26 percent) follow animal husbandry, 8 respondents (16 percent) follow trading/business, 27 respondetns (54 percent) follow agriculture labour and rest 2 respondents follow some other occupation as subsidiary source of income. These other occupation are working in the factory or rikshaw driving etc.

If we further analyse this table, maximum no.of respondents follow agriculture labour. This is followed by subsidiary occupation of animal husbandry and then by trading & commerce. The least number of respondents follow some petty work to earn livelihood.

Table No. 4.36

Table showing whether respondents hold land

Sr.No.	Details/Do they own land	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	22	44
2.	No	28	56
	Total	**50**	**100**

This shows that 22 respondents of Kutchh district possess land; but 28 respondents donot have any land with them.

Thus more respondents are without land; and less than haif (44 percent) have some land to cultivate. Obviously, those who donot have land resort 10 agriculture labour or animal husbandry and other occupation.

Let us now see what is the holding of land with those who have it.

Table No. 4.37

Table showing holding of land

Sr.No.	Details (Acres of land)	Number	Percent
1.	Below 5 acres	08	16
2.	6 to 10 acres	06	12
3.	11 to 15 acres	03	06
4.	16 to 20 acres	03	06
5.	21 acres or more	02	04
6.	Thoe not having land	28	56
	Total	**50**	**100**

The respondents of Kutchh district holding the land have been saown here. 8 respondents (16 percent). Those holding 6 to 10 acres of land are 6 respondents (12 percent), those who have land between 11 to 16 acres of land are 3 (6 percent); whereas those having 16 acres or more are again 3 respondents (6 percent). Those having 21 acres or more are only 2 (4 percent) in number. It is seen that starting fromleast holding of Below 5 acres, the number gradually declives as the acres of holding goes up. In other words it means that more number of people have smaller holding of land and vice verso. It was earlier mentioned that 28 respondents

(56 percent) donot hold any land. all the land shown above is cultivable. The crops taken in these villages of Kutchh district are groundnut, Tuver, Juwar, Bajra, Tobacco, Green bin etc. Most of the respondents take groundnut, Tuver etc. Usually they take one crop in a year; but 2 respondents (4 percent) take two crops. Those having the irrigation facility take two crops in 9 year; but those who are dependent on monsoon rains only, can take only are crop from the land. Practically all land holders, except 2 take only one crop in a year.

Table No. 4.38

Table showing irrigation facility on land

Sr.No.	Details/Whether there is Irigation facility	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	13	26
2.	No	37	74
	Total	**50**	**100**

The table indicates that 13 respondents have the irrigation facility but 37 donot have any such facility. Thus those not having irrigation facility outnumber those having such facility.

Table No. 4.39

Table showing annual income of respondents

Sr.No.	Details/Annual Income Rs.	Number	Percent
1.	Below Rs. 5,000	02	04
2.	Rs.5,000 to Rs. 10,000	18	36
3.	Rs.10,000 to Rs.20,000	18	36
4.	Rs.20,000 to Rs.30,000	05	10
5.	Rs.30,000 to Rs.40,000	06	12
6.	Morethan Rs. 40,000	01	02
	Total	**50**	**100**

The table reveals the details regarding income level of respondents.

The persons having very megre annual income below in 5,000 are 2 (4 percent), Those earning between Rs. 5,000/- to Rs. 10,000/- are 18 (36 percent) those earning Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 20,000/- are also 18 (percent). Those earning Rs. 20,000/- to Rs. 30,000/- are 5 (10 percent), and those earning Rs. 30,000/- to Rs. 40,000/- are 6 (12 percent) and lastly those having their annual income abovr Rs. 40,000/- is only 1 person (2 percent).

Most of the respondents earn Rs. 5,000/- to Rs. 10,000/- or Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/- (18 percent). Only one respondent claims to have his annual income above Rs. 40,000/-.

Table No. 4.40

Table showing level of annual expenditure of the respondetns.

Sr.No.	Details/Annual Exp. Rs.	Number	Per cent
1.	Below 5,000	05	10
2.	Rs.5,000 to Rs.10,000	21	42
3.	Rs.10,000 to Rs.20,000	12	24
4.	Rs.20,000 to Rs.30,000	06	12
5.	Rs.30,000 to Rs.40,000	05	10
6.	Rs.40,000 & more	01	02
	Total	**50**	**100**

The table shows that 5 respondents (10 percent) have the annual family expenditure below Rs. 5,000/-. There are 21 respondents (42 percent) spending between Rs. 5,000/- to Rs. 10,000/-. There are also 12 respondents (24 percent) having the annual expenditure level btween Rs. 10,000/- to Rs.20,000/-. The

respondents annually spedning Rs. 21,000 to Rs.30,000 are 6 (12 percent) in number and those spending Rs.30,000/- to Rs. 40,000/- are 5 (10 percent) in number. Lastly there is one single respondent (2 percent) whose annual expenditure level is as high as Rs. 40,000/- or more.

If we have a second look of the table, again an interesting pattern emerges. Those spending Rs. 5,000/- or less annually are indeed very poor respondents and they live below subsetence level. But thereafter, if we study the table throughly. We find that as the level of expenditure goes up and up; the no.of respondents becomeless and less e.g. Ranging from expenditure level of Rs. 5,000/- to 10,000/- where the no.of respondents are 21 (42 percent) gradually this number declives at each step, and ultimately we have only one respondent (i.e. 2 percent) spending annually Rs. 40,000/- or more. Thus very few people have more money to spend. More people obviously spend less money.

Table No. 4.41

Table showing if the respondents have incurred any debt

Sr.No.	Details (whether having debt)	Number	percent
1.	Yes	11	22
2.	No	39	78
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus, 11 respondents (22 percent) have incurred some debt, but 39 respondents (78 percent) did not incur any debt.

Thus large no.of respondents have not incurred the debt; but some of them did incur the debt for one reasons or the other.

Table No.4.42

From whom did they incur the debt ?

Sr.No.	Details (Source of debt)	Number	Percent
1.	From the Bank	04	08
2.	From the money lender	01	02
3.	From relatives	06	12
4.	Those not having any debt	39	78
	Total	**50**	**100**

The table indicates that 4 respondents (8 percent) have taken loans from banks, one respondent has taken loan from the money lender, 6 respondents (12 percent) have taken loans from some relatives. As was told to us earlier, 39 persons (78 percent) didnot incur any loan/debt from anybody.

Obviously, 6 respondents (12 percent) have approached the relatives for their financial requirement. They are in larger number; and only one respondent has resorted to a money lender. He is in the small minority group.

Table No. 4.43

Table showing the purpose of incurring debt

Sr.No.	Details (purpose)	Number	Percent
1.	For Development of Agriculture	06	12
2.	For construction of house	02	04
3.	For Marriage of offsprings	03	06
4.	• Those not having any debt	39	78
	Total	**50**	**100**

It becomes clear from the table that 6 respondents have incurred debt for development of agriculture, 2 for construction of a house and 3 for meeting social obligation like marriages of sons or daughters etc.

It is told earlier that 39 respondents didnot incur any debt.

Thus larger no.of respondents who have incurred some debt have done it for the agriculture development, indicating their desire to improve the land and take better crop. The least number have incurred debt for construction of a house, which is also a pressing requirement. Usually, the loan for agriculture development/improvement is taken from bank wherein some government subsidy is also provided.

Table No. 4.44

Table indicating the amount of debt

Sr.No.	Details (amount of debt)	Number	Percent
1.	Below Rs. 10,000	04	08
2.	Between Rs. 10,000 to 20,000	02	04
3.	Between Rs.20,000 to 30,000	02	04
4.	Above Rs.30,000	03	06
5.	Those not having any debt	39	78
	Total	**50**	**100**

Let us study the table. It shows that 4 respondents (8 percent) have incurred debt below Rs. 10,000/-, 2 respondents (4 percent) have incurred the debt between Rs. 10,000/- to 20,000/-, again 2 (4 percent) between Rs. 20,000/- to Rs. 30,000/- and 3 respondents (6 percent) have incurred debt above Rs. 30,000/-. As stated earlier, 39 respondents (78 percent) have not incurred any debt.

The amount of debt also seems reasnable. More number of respondents (4) have incurred less debt (below Rs. 10,000/-) In all other categaries the no.of respondents are 2, 2 & 3 respectively. The 3 respondents (6 percent) have incurred debt above Rs. 30,000/-.

4. SABARKANTHA DISTRICT

The Talukas and Villages selected from Sabarkantha District :

Two talukas have been selected from the Sabarkantha district. Himatnagar Taluka and Khedbrahma taluka.

Again, 10 villages in total have been selected from these two talukas at 5 villages from each taluka.

(1) Villages selected from Himatnagar Taluka.

(1) Pural (2) Bhavsar (3) Hadiol (4) Takhatgadh and (5) Nikoda

(2) Villages selected from Khedbrahma Taluka.

(1) Laxmipura (2) Kalol (3) Poshina (4) Kajawas & (5) Ambamahuda.

Thus, above stated 10 villages have been identified from Sabarkantha district for our study.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF RESPONDENTS (VILLAGERS) OF SABANKANTHA DISTRICT :

In this chapter, we have studied the socio-economic conditions of the people of Sabarkantha as under :

Table No.4.45

Table showing caste of people

Sr.No.	Detail (caste)	Number	Percent
1.	Patel	05	10
2.	Harijan	13	26
3.	Tribals	15	30
4.	Rabari (Baxipanch/SEBC)	16	32
5.	Muslim	01	02
	Total	**50**	**100**

The above table indicates the caste pattern of the district. There are 5 respondents (10 percent) from Patel community, is respondents (26 percent) from Harijans, 15 respondents (30 percent) from tribals, 16 respondents (32 percent) from Rabari community which are categorised in Baxipanch community (socially and educationally Backward Community-SEBC), and 1 respondent (2 percent) comes from Muslim community. The tribals in this district are Dungari Garasia.

If we further analyse this table, about respondents from 10 villages of Sabarkantha district, the maximum number (16) are Rabaries (Baxipanch), sharply followed by Tribals (15) and Harijans (13). The Muslim respondent is only 1 (2 percent) in number; and that is the least number. Slightly above this are Patels (5 in number) which account for 10 percent.

Table No. 4.46

Table showing the age of respondents

Sr.No.	Details (Age of respondents)	Number	Percent
1.	18 to 30 years	08	16
2.	31 to 40 years	14	28
3.	41 to 50 years	19	38
4.	51 to 60 years	02	04
5.	Above 61 year	02	04
	Total	**50**	**100**

It is seen from above table about the age of respondents of Sabarkantha district that 8 respondents (16 percent) belong to age bracket of 18-30 years; 14 respondetns (28 percent) belong to age-bracket 31-40 years; 19 respondents (38 percent) belong to age-bracket 41-50 years; 7 respondents (14 percent) belong to age bracket 51-60 years; and lastly 2 respondents (4 percent) belong to age group of 61 years & above.

It is further revealed from this table that maximum number (19) belong to age bracket 41-50 years; and the least number of 2 respondents belong to age group of 61 years and above.

Table No. 4.46

Table showing the age of respondents

Sr.No.	Details (Age of respondents)	Number	Percent
1.	18 to 30 years	08	16
2.	31 to 40 years	14	28
3.	41 to 50 years	19	38
4.	51 to 60 years	02	04
5.	Above 61 year	02	04
	Total	**50**	**100**

It is seen from above table about the age of respondents of Sabarkantha district that 8 respondents (16 percent) belong to age bracket of 18-30 years; 14 respondetns (28 percent) belong to age-bracket 31-40 years; 19 respondents (38 percent) belong to age-bracket 41-50 years; 7 respondents (14 percent) belong to age bracket 51-60 years; and lastly 2 respondents (4 percent) belong to age group of 61 years & above.

It is further revealed from this table that maximum number (19) belong to age bracket 41-50 years; and the least number of 2 respondents belong to age group of 61 years and above.

Table No.4.47

Table showing Education level of respondents

Sr.No.	Details (level of Education)	Number	Percent
1.	Illiterate	17	34
2.	Can only read & write	06	12
3.	Upto Primary level	13	26
4.	Upto Secondary level	07	14
5.	Upto Higher Education	07	14
	Total	**50**	**100**

It becomes clear from this table that the respondents from Sabarkantha district reflect different level of education. To begin with, many 17 respondents (34 percent) are totally illiterate; and 6 more respondents (12 percent) can only read and write; but have not come across any formal education system. 13 respondents (26 percent) have reached uptoPrimary level; 7 respondents (14 percent) have reached upto. Secondary level and again 7 respondents (14 percent) have reached upto higher education level.

The analysis of this data will reveal that the illiterat respondents top the list. The least number of respondents also belong to the category "can only read and write." Among those, who have gave to formal education, more number are found in Primary education level followed by both secondary and higher education level at 7 each.

Table 4.48

Table showing condition of house

Sr.No.	Details of condition	Number	Percent
1.	Kutcha	41	82
2.	Pucca	09	18
	Total	**50**	**100**

A large number of respondents (41) live in Kutcha houses; and only very few (9) have pucca house to stay.

The Kutcha houses are built from earth/mind and Pucca houses are built of bricks and cencert. Usually tribals and those belonging to Baxipunch are from lower income group and stay in kuchha house.

All except are respondents stay in their own house. Only one respondent stays in rented house. Usually, people build their houses on their own piece of land.

Table No.4.49

Table showing marital status of respondents

Sr.No.	Detail (marital status)	Number	Percent
1.	Married	48	96
2.	Unmarried	01	02
3.	Widow	01	02
	Total	**50**	**100**

It indicates that 48 respondents of Sabarkantha District (96 percent) are married; only one (2 percent) is unmarried and one (2 percent) is a widow. Thus, all except one are married of which one has become a widow.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE RESPONDENTS :

The economic conditions of the respondents of Sabarkantha district was studied as under :

Table No. 4.50

Table showing main occupation of the respondents

Sr.No.	Details (main occupation)	Number	Percent
1.	Agriculture	29	58
2.	Commerce / Trading	06	12
3.	Casual labour	12	24
4.	Job/Employment	03	06
	Total	**50**	**100**

This table throws light on occupation pattern of the respondents. 29 respondents (58 percent) are engaged in agriculture, 6 (12 percent) are engaged in commerce/trading; 12 (24 percent) are engaged in casual labour and 3 (6 percent) are engaged in petty job/employment.

It is obvious that a large number of respondents have agriculture as their main source of income. The least number or persons are in employment. When the education level is low, the chances of getting employment becomes meagre. Surprisingly, none of the respondents have taken up Animal husbandry as their main occupation in Sabarkantha district.

Table No.4.51

Table showing subsidiary occupation of respondents

Sr.No..	Details (subsidiary occupation)	Number	Percent
1.	Animal Husbandry	06	12
2.	Commerce / Trading	05	10
3.	Agriculture Labour	34	68
4.	Other Occupation	05	10
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here is the picture of Sabsidiary occupation of the respondents. 6 (12 percent) respondents have taken up animal husbandry as their subsidiary source of income; 5 (10 percent) have been engaged in petty business, 34 (78 percent) depend on agricylture labour as subsidiary occupation and 5 (10 percent) are engaged in some other occupation not covered in above list.

Thus quite a large number have agriculture labour as their subsidiary occupation. One can say that, both in main as well as subsidiary occupation agriculture or its related work have been governing the economic life of respondents of this district. Even animal husbandry both as main and subsidiary occupation donot seem attractive in this district.

Table No. 4.52

Table showing whether respondents hold land

Sr.No.	Details (whether holding land)	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	29	58
2.	No	21	42
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus 29 (58 percent) of respondents have the land; but 21 (48 percent) donot have any land for cutivation. It seems those not having land must be going for agriculture labour or other petty occupation.

Table No. 4.53

Table showing holding of land with respondents

Sr.No.	Details (holding of land)	Number	Percent
1.	1 to 5 acres	20	40
2.	6 to 10 acres	09	18
3.	Those not having land	21	42
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus, 20 (40 percent) respondents have the piece of land below 5 acres, and only 9 (18 percent) have land between 6 to 10 acres. As we have been told earlier, 21 (42 percent) donot have any land.

Thus, even those having land, have a very small holding. Only 18 percent of respondents have land between 6 to 10 acres.

The land shown above is cultivable. In Sabarkantha district, they take Maile, Paddy, Ground nut, Tuver, Urad, Vegetables etc. 46 percent of respondents take only one crop a year; and 12 percent respondetns take two crops a year. Thus majority of them can take only one crop a year. Those having irrigation facility can take perhaps two crops, but those who are totally dependent on monsoon rains only for their agriculture can take only one crop from the land.

Table No. 4.54

Table showing irrigation facilities by respondents

Sr.No.	Details (whether irrigation facilities exist)	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	14	28
2.	No	15	30
3.	Those not having land	21	42
	Total	**50**	**100**

As stated earlier, 21 respondetns donot hold any land; but out of those having some land, almost half (28 percent) have irrigation facility and remaining half (30 per cent) donot have irrigation facility.

Table No. 4.55

Table showing the annual income of the respondents

Sr.No.	Details (anual income Rs.)	Number	Percent
1.	Below Rs. 5,000	12	24
2.	Between Rs. 5,000 to 10,000	27	54
3.	Between Rs. 10,000 to 20,000	10	20
4.	Above Rs. 20,000	01	02
	Total	**50**	**100**

The table throws light on economic conditions of the respondents.

There are 12 respondents having annual income below Rs. 5,000 (24 per-cent). There are 27 respondents (54 percent) having annual income between Rs. 5,000/- to 10,000/-. there are 10 respondents (20 percent) having their annual

income between Rs. 10,000/- to 20,000/- and only 1 respondents (2 percent) have income exceeding Rs. 20,000/-.

Thus, putting first two groups to-gether, we get 12 + 27 = 39 respondents (78 percent) having their annual income below Rs. 10,000/-. They are BPL families. Thus large No.of respondents are living below povery live. Only 10 (20 percent) can be considered to have midium income level and only one respondent is having fair income level. (Rs. 20,000/- & above)

Table No.4.56

Table showing expenditure level of respondents

Sr.No.	Details (annual expenditure level)	Number	Percent
1.	Below rs. 5,000	12	24
2.	Between Rs.5,000 to 10,000/-	30	60
3.	Between Rs. 10,000 to Rs.20,000	07	14
4.	Rs. 20,000/- and above	01	02
	Total	**50**	**100**

This table shows the expenditure level of respondents. 12 respondents (24 percent) have a very meagre expenditure level below Rs. 5,000/- which is below subsistance level. 30 respondents (60 percent) spend annually Rs. 5,000 to Rs.10,000/- which is also just substitence level. 7 respondents (14 percent) spend annually between Rs. 10,000/- to 20,000/- and only one respondent can afford to spend more than Rs. 20,000/- annually; which is 2 percent of the respondents.

The expenditure pattern of these respondents also indicate that maximum of respondents spend amount below substistance level and very few of them have just fair level of spending.

Table No.4.57

Table showing if the respondents have incurred debt

Sr.No.	Details (if they have incurred debt)	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	23	46
2.	No	27	54
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus 23 respondents (46 percent) have incurred the debt; but 27 (54 percent) have not incurred any debt. Those having debt or not having debt have not much difference in their number. It is negligible difference.

Table No.4.58

Table showing source of debt

Sr.No.	Details (source of debt)	Number	Percent
1.	Bank	06	12
2.	Money lender	04	08
3.	Relatives	13	26
4.	Those not having any debt	27	54
	Total	**50**	**100**

The table shows source of debt for the respondents. 6 respondents (12 percent) have taken loans from the bank; 4 respondents (8 percent) have incurred debt from money lenders; 13 of them have taken loans from realatives; and of course, 27 have not incurred any debt. Quite a large number of respondents resort to non-formal sector of personal relatives to take loans. Those resorting to bank are less and those going to money lender are still lesser in number.

Table No. 4.59

Table showing the purpose of debt by respondents

Sr.No.	Details (purpose of debt)	Number	percent
1.	For development of agriculture	14	28
2.	For construction of house	01	02
3.	For marriages of their offsprings	01	02
4.	Those not having debt	34	68
	Total	**50**	**100**

The table shows that 14 respondents (28 percent) have incurred debt for development of the agriculture, one respondent has incurred debt for construction of a house, another one has lanker loan for getting their son or daughter married. And clearly 34 (68 percent) do not have any debt.

It is a good sign that the cause of debt incase of most of the respondents is the agriculture improvement. Thus they want to have better cultivation and consequently want to take better yeild from their land. Taking loan for construction of a house is also necessary in life, and it has potential to lead to decent living in future, whereas marriage of a son or daughter is a social responsibility which one cannot avoid.

Table No. 4.60

Table showing amount of debt by respondents

Sr.No.	Detail (amount of debt)	Number	Percent
1.	Below Rs. 10,000/-	23	46
2.	Those not having debt	27	54
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus, the respondents of Sabarkantha district, who have incurred some debt for above purposes, have limited it to the amount below Rs. 10,000/- None of them have exceeded this limit; and all of them (23 i.e. 46 percent) are within that limit only. Both the purpose of debt and the amount seem just and reasonable.

5. JUNAGADH DISTRICT

TALUKAS AND VILLAGES OF JUNAGADH DISTRICT SELECTED FOR THE STUDY :

We have selected 2 talukas from Junagadh district for our study (1) Vanthali and (2) Talala.

We have also selected totally 10 villages from these two talukas as under :

(1) Villages selected from Vanthali Taluka

(1) Navlakhi (2) Balot (3) Dhandhusar (4) Ravni (5) Badwada

(2) Villages selected from Talala Taluka

(1) Galiawad (2) Borwat (3) Virpur (3) Vadla (5) Samresi

Thus, tqtaly 10 villages have been selected from these two talukas of Junagadh district. We have undertaken the Socio-economic conditions of the village people through that of respondents, which is as under :

SOCIO ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE RESPONDENTS (Village People) :

The Socio-economic conditions of the respondents of Junagadh district were known as under :

Table No.4.61

Table showing the caste of respondent

Sr.No.	Detail (Caste)	Number	Percent
1.	Patel	25	50
2.	Harijan	16	32
3.	Baxipanch (SEBC)	06	12
4.	Muslim	03	06
	Total	**50**	**100**

The table indicates that :

25 respondents (50 percent) of Junagadh taluka are patels; 16 respondents (32 percent) are Harijans; 06 respondents (12 percent) are from Baxipanch; 03 respondents (6 percent) are Muslims.

It should be noted here that there is a population of Sidi community in Talala Taluka of Junagadh district. They are tribals of original african origin. But they did not respond to the investigator of this survey, and as such they were droped from the study. Thus, from the table, it reflects that maximum respondents are from Patel caste and the least number is from Patel caste and the last number is from Muslim community. In between, there are Harijans, Baxipanch (SEBC) etc. in more or less number.

Table No.4.62

Table showing age of respondents

Sr.No.	Detail (Age of Respondents)	Number	Percent
1.	Between 18 to 30 yrs.	02	04
2.	Between 31 to 40 yrs.	16	32
3.	Between 41 to 50 yrs.	30	60
4.	Between 51 to 60 yrs	02	04
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus, among the respondents of Junagadh district, 2 (4 percent) are from the age group of 18 to 30; 16 respondents (32 percent) are from the age group of 31 to 40; 30 respondents (60 percent) are from the age group of 41 to 50 and 2 (4 percent) are from the age group of 51 to 60; thus making a total of 50 respondents.

It is evidently seen from the table at a glance that maximum number of

respondents are from age-bracket of 41-50 yrs. (middle age group) whereas both from younger (18-30 yrs.) and elder (51 to 60 yrs) there are only 2-2 respondents. The age group 31-40 yrs. also account for as many as (32 percent) respondents.

Table No. 4.63

Table showing Education level of respondents

Sr.No.	Details (level of education)	Number	Percent
1.	Illiterate	05	10
2.	Can read and write	14	28
3.	Primary level	25	50
4.	Secondary level	06	12
	Total	**50**	**100**

Let us have a look at the table. There are 5 (10 percent) respondents who are totally illiterate; and there are 14 (28 percent) who have not attended perhaps any formal school; but can only read and write. There are 25 (50 percent) respondents who have acquired primary level of education and there are 6 (12 percent) who have acquired secondary level of education.

At a glance, one can see that maximum number of persons (25) have reached upto primary level of education; where as the least number (5) of respondents are totally illiterate.

If we go deep into this, we see that not a singal person hs reached beyond secondary level. Thus, among these respondents of Junagadh district, the level of education is rather low.

Table No.4.64

Table showing the conditions of house

Sr.No.	Detail (conditions of house)	Number	Percent
1.	Kutchha	15	30
2.	Pucca	35	70
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus, 15 respondents live in Kutchha houses and 35 respondents live in pucca houses.

It is clear that quire a good number of respondents own pucca houses very few respondents live in kuchha houses.

Besides, an the houses (pucca or kutchha) are ownerd by respondents. No one stayes in rented house.

It was also revealed that all the respondents are married. None of them is unmarried or widow etc.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF RESPONDENTS :

The economic conditions of the respondents of Junagadh district was studied in this survey. The details in this regard have been described below :

Table No. 4.65

Table showing main occupations of the respondents

Sr.No.	Details regarding main occupation	Number	Percent
1.	Agriculture	42	84
2.	Animal husbandry	03	06
3.	Casual Agri. labour	05	10
	Total	**50**	**100**

It is seen that 42 (84 percent) respondents follow agriculture as main occupation; 3 (6 percent) follow animal husbandry as main occupation; and 5 (10 percent) follow casual agriculture labour as their main occupation.

If we analyse this table further, it is seen that an respondents, directly or indirectly are associated with agriculture or allted occupation. Thus it can be said that the respondents of Junagadh district are mainly associated with agriculture. We donot find any respondent following commerce trade or job.

Table No. 4.64

Table showing subsidiary occupation of respondents

Sr.No.	Detail of subsidiary occupation	Number	Percent
1.	Animal Husbandry	20	40
2.	Commerce / Trading	01	02
3.	Agriculture labour	24	58
	Total	**50**	**100**

This table indicates that 20 (40 percent) respondents folow animal husbandry as subsidiary occupation; 1 respondent (2 percent) follow commerce/trade as subsidiary occupation and 29 (58 percent) follow Agriculture labour as subsidiary occupation.

The detailed analysis of this table will also confirm our above interprotection that the respondents of Junagadh district mainly follow agriculture and such allied agriculture activity both as main and subsidiary occupation. Only one respondent follows commerce/trade as subsidiary occupation.

Table No. 4.67

Table showing whether respondents have land

Sr.No.	Detail regarding having land	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	42	84
2.	No	08	16
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus 42 (84 percent) respondents have land and only 8 (16 percent) respondents donot have any land. Thus quite a large number of respondents own land and lead agriculturist life.

Table No. 4.68

Table showing holdings of land

Sr.No.	Details (holding of land)	Number	Percent
1.	Below 5 acres	20	40
2.	6 to 10 acres	17	34
3.	11 to 15 acres	05	10
4.	Not having any land	08	16
	Total	**50**	**100**

Let us see what this table reflects.

20 respondents have land below 5 acres only, 17 respondents (34 percent) have the land between 6 to 10 acres, 5 respondents (10 percent) have the land holding between 11 to 15 acres, 8 respondents (16 percent) donot have any land.

Thus, more nuber of respondents (20) have land below 5 acres, followes by 17 respondents having 6 to 10 acres of land. Taking both these 2 groups together,

20 + 17 = 37 (74 percent) respondents have land below 10 acres and only 5 (10 percent) have land between 11 to 15 acres.

All this land is cultivable. In Junagadh district, the main crops iike ground nut, Juwar, Bajra, Tuver, Green lins etc. are taken. The Fruits and Vegetables like Ground-nut, Chiku, Mango, Ber, Jamfal and other vegetables are also taken.

20 percent of respondents take one crop a day and 64 percent respondents take two crops a year. Thus, majority of respondents take two crops a year, and some respondents take only one crop a year. There is a good irrigation facility in district; therefore two crops can be taken. The agriculture is comparitively a good yeilding occupation in this district.

Table No.4.69

Table showing facilities of irrigation

Sr.No.	Details whether irrigation facilities exist	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	32	64
2.	No.	18	36
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus, 32 respondents (64 percent) have the facilities for irrigation, and 18 (36 percent) donot have such facility. Thus, quite a good no.of respondents have irriga-tion facility.

Table No.4.70

Table showing income level of respondents

Sr.No.	Details of income level	Number	Percent
1.	Below Rs.10,000	11	22
2.	Between 11,000/- to 20,000/-	22	44
3.	Between 21,000/- to 30,000/-	11	22
4.	Between 31,000/- to 40,000/-	05	10
5.	Above Rs. 41,000/-	01	02
	Total	**50**	**100**

The table shows that 11 respondents (22 percent) have their annual income below Rs.10,000, whereas, 22 respondents (44 percent) belong to the income bracket of 11,000/- ot 20,000/- 11 respondents (22 percent) belong to income bracket of 21,000/- to 30,000/- and 5 respondents (10 percent) belong to income bracket of 31,000/- to 40,000/- lastly, one respondent belongs to the income above Rs. 41,000/-.

More number of respondents belong to income level of rs. 11,000/- to 20,000/- (22), whereas the least no.of respondent (1) belong to higher income level of Rs. 41,000/- and more.

Obviously, we have large no.of respondents belong to lower level of income. Thus the income level of the respondents in general is just fair.

Table No. 4.71

Table showing the expenditure level of respondents

Sr.No.	Details the expenditure level of respondents	Number	Percent
1.	Below rs. 5,000/-	02	04
2.	Between 5,000/- to 10,000/-	08	16
3.	Between 10,000/- to 20,000/-	24	48
4.	Between 20,000/- to 30,000/-	12	24
5.	Between 30,000/- to 40,000/-	03	06
6.	Above Rs. 40,000/-	01	02
	Total	**50**	**100**

This table indicates the level of annual expenditure of the respondents of Junagadh district. It is reveuled that 2 respondents (4 percent) spend less than Rs. 5,000/- per annum; 8 respondents (16 percent) spend betweenRs.5,000/- to 10,000/-. 24 respondents (48 percent) spend between Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/-, 12 respondents (24 percent) spend between Rs. 20,000/- to Rs.30,000/-, 3 of the participants (6 percent) have their level of expenditure between Rs. 30,000/- to Rs.40,000/- and lastly there is one respondents (2 percent) spend more than Rs. 40,000/- annually.

Most respondents (24) spend between Rs. 10,000/- to 20,000/- and the least no.of respondent (1) is available in the income level above Rs. 40,000/-.

If we combine first 2 groups together 10 respondents (20 percent) spend less than Rs. 10,000/- which is below subsistence level, except these 2- percent, large no.of participants spend to live middle class life. Overall conditions of these respondence can be said to be fairly good.

Table 4.72

Table showing whether respondents incur any debt

Sr.No.	Details, if they have debt	Numebr	Percent
1.	Yes	11	22
2.	No	39	78
	Total	**50**	**100**

It is very clear from this table that 22 percent have incurred some debt; but quite a large number (78 percent) did not incur any debt for any reason. Thus only a few respondents have incurred some debt.

Table No. 4.73

Table showing the source of debt.

Sr.No.	Details of source of debt	Number	Percent
1.	From Bank	10	20
2.	From relatives	01	02
3.	Those not having any debt	39	78
	Total	**50**	**100**

The table indicates that 39 respondents have not incurred any debt, but out of those 11 persons who have incurred the debt, 10 have taken it from bank and only one person from the relatives. Thus alrge no.of respondents resort to bank for their financial requirements.

Table No. 4.74

Table showing the purpose of debt

Sr.No.	Details regarding purpose of debt	Number	Percent
1.	For development of Agri.	09	18
2.	For marriage of offsprings	02	04
3.	Not having debt	39	78
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus, quite a good number 9 (18 percent) have incurred debt for purpose of agriculture. This is a good sign that the respondents want to improve their agriculture so that they get better yeild from the land. Only 2 respondents have incurred debt for marriages of their offsprings; which is a part of their social obligation.

Table No.4.75

Table showing the amount of debt

Sr.No.	Details of amount of debt	Number	Percent
1.	Below Rs. 10,000	01	02
2.	Between Rs.10,000/- to 20,000/-	08	16
3.	Between Rs.20,000 to Rs.30,000/-	02	04
4.	Not having any debt	39	78
	Total	**50**	**100**

Let us view at the table above. 39 respondents (78 percent) have not incurred any debt in this district. Thus only 11 respondents have done the debt. Their distribution is as under :

- below Rs. 10,000/-	1
- between 10,000/0 to 20,000/-	8
- betweeh 20,000 to 30,000	2
Total	**11**

So sum up the conditions of people in various spheres like social, economic, etc. in all five districts mentioned above, we draw following general statements :

- In all five districts under study, we have people from Schedule Castes, Schedule Tribes, Baxipanch (SEBC), Muslims and some other general category of people.
- On an average, the education level is rather low.
- Some people have land, some donot have land at all. The irrigation facilities onland are also not to the extent necessary.
- On an average, the economic conditions are not so good.
- People work hard to earh their livelihood and maintain their families.
- They have availed the benefits of government schemes to some extent. Therefore there is some inprovement in their conditions.
- A lot of efforts are necessary to reach the benefits of various schemes in the last of the last lot of people in remote areas of the districts.

CHAPTER- 5

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF RESPONDENTS

(Members of Village - Panchayats)

1. VALSAD DISTRICT

Socio-Economic conditions of respondents (members of village panchayats) of Valsad District :

The socio-economic conditions of Valsad district was found to beas under :

Table No.1

• Table showing castes of people

Sr.No.	Caste	Number	Percent
1.	Patel	03	06
2.	Tribals	45	90
3.	Rabari (Baxipanch)	02	04
	Total	**50**	**100**

This table indicates that 3 (6 percent) respondents of Valsad district are Patels, 45 (90 percent) are tribals and 2 (4 percent) are Rabaris (Baxipanch SEBC) Thus, as many as 90 percent are tribals, living Patels and Rabaris for behind an 6 percent and 4 percent respectively.

Table No.2

Table showing age of the respondents

Sr.No.	Details (Age)	Number	Percent
1.	18 to 30 yrs.	03	06
2.	31 to 40 yrs.	26	52
3.	41 to 50 yrs.	18	36
4.	51 to 60 yrs.	03	06
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus, we have a picture of the respondents (village Panchayat members) of Valsad district. There are 3 (6 percent) respondents in the age group of 18 to 30, there are 26 respondents (52 percent) in the age group of 31 to 40 years, there are 18 (36 percent) respondents in the age group of 41 to 50 years; and again there are 3 (6 percent) respondents in the age group of 51 to 60 years.

If we analyse this table, very interesting data emerges. Both in the younger age-group (18-30) and in the older age group (51-60) there are less number of respondents 3 each; whereas in the age group of 31 to 40 years; there are maximum number of respondents 26 (52 percent) followed by 41-50 age group (18) (36 percent). Thus, the panchayats are in the hands of youthful and matured people between the age group of 31 - 50 years; which together count for 44 number (88 percent).

Table No.3

Table showing education level of respondents

Sr.No.	Details (level of education)	Number	Percent
1.	Illiterate	08	16
2.	Can only read & write	03	06
3.	Primary level	27	54
4.	Secondary level	10	20
5.	Higher Education	02	04
	Total	**50**	**100**

Let us examine this data. It is seen that 8 (16 percent) respondents are totally illiterate; and 3 (6 percent) respondents can only read and write. There are 27 (54 percent) respondents who have reached upto primary level of education and there are 10 (20 percent) who have reached upto secondary level of education. Only 2 respondents (4 percent) have acquired higher education.

Thus, we find more number (27) in primary education group, followed by 10 in secondary edcation; making a total of (27 + 10 + 2) 39 respondents (78 percent) who are educated. But we also see that 8 are totally illiterate and other 3 who can read and write are not formally educated. On an average, there is good level of education among Panchayat members in this district.

Table No.4

Table showing conditions of house

Sr.No.	Details (Condition of House)	Number	Percent
1.	Kutcha	25	50
2.	Pucca	25	50
	Total	**50**	**100**

Evidently from this table half of the respondents (25) live in Kutcha house, and the remaining half (25) live in pucca house.

All the respondents stay in their own houses. No respondent stays in rented house. Usually the people in rural areas have their own house. Each one has the owned house Pucca or Kutcha.

An inquiry into marital status of the respondents, it was reveared that all the respondents except one are married. Only one respondent was found unmarried.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF RESPONDENTS OF VALSAD DISTRICT :

Following details were available for examining the economic conditions of the respondents of Valsad district.

Table No.5

Table showing Main Occupations of respondents

Sr.No.	Details (Main Occupation)	Number	Percent
1.	Agriculture	25	50
2.	Commerce/Trade	03	06
3.	Animal Husbandry	10	20
4.	Agricluture labour	11	22
5.	Weaving	01	02
	Total	**50**	**100**

Let us discuss the details.

There are 25 respondents (50 percent) who follow agriculture as main occupation. Those following commerce/trading are 3 (6 percent) in number. There are 10 respondetns (20 percent) following animal husbandry as main occupation; and 11 respondents (22 percent) following agriculture labour as main occupation. Lastly, there is one respondent following weaving as main occupation.

The maximum number of respondents (25) are found in agriculture sector; followed by 11 in agricluture labour, and 10 in animal husbandry. All these occupations are directly or indiractly connected with agriculture sector only. There are only 3 following commerce and one following weaving work; which is the least in number.

Table No.6

Table showing subsidiary occupations of the respondents

Sr.No.	Details (Subsidiary occupation)	Number	Percent
1.	Animal Husbandry	03	06
2.	Trade / Commerce	09	18
3.	Agriculture labour	38	76
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus, there are 3 respondents (6 percent) following Animal Husbandry, 9 (18 percent) following trade/commerce and 38 (76 percent) following Agriculture labour as their subsidiary occupation.

Thus, a large number of respondents (38) follow agriculture labour as their subsidiary occupation. Very small number of 3 respondents follow animal husbandry as their subsidiary occupation.

By and large, it can be derived that directly or indirectly the respondents follow agriculture and allied activities as main or subsidiary occupation.

Table No.7

Table showing whether respondents hold any land

Sr.No.	Details (whether holds any land)	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	43	86
2.	No	07	14
	Totai	**50**	**100**

It is seen from this table that 43 respondents (86 percent) have some land; but7 (14 porcent) donot have any land.

Thus, most of the respondents do have land; and a few donot have land.

Table No.8

Table showing holding of land by respondents

Sr.No.	Detail (holding of land)	Number	Percent
1.	Below 5 acres	19	38
2.	6 to 10 acres	16	32
3.	11 to 20 acres	02	04
4.	21 acres or more	06	12
5.	Not having any land	07	14
	Total	**50**	**100**

The table indicates that 19 respondents (38 percent) have less than 5 acres of land and 16 (32 percent) have land between 6 to 10 acres. Only 2 respondents (4 percent) have land holding of 11 to 20 acres and 6 (12 percent) have land holding of more that 20 acres. It was told earlier that 7 (14 percent) donot hold any land.

Thus, more number of respondents have the smallest holding of land; and last

number (?) have holding of 11 to 20 acres. If we put first two groups to-gether, 35 (70 percent) respondents hold land of less than 10 acres. 6 to the respondents have largest holding of more than 20 acres.

The land with all the respondents of Valsad district is cultivable & fertile. The usual crops in this part of the State are Paddy, Ground Nut, Juver, Urad and other cash crops of horticulture/fruits etc. Usually one crop in a year is taken; but those respondents having irrigation facilities take two crops in a year.

Table No.9

Table showing Irrigation facilities

Sr.No.	Details of irrigation facility	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	21	42
2.	No	29	58
	Total	**50**	**100**

The table indicates that 21 (42 percent) respondents have some irrigation facility; whereas 29 donot name irrigation facility.

Thus, more of the respondents donot have irrigation facility; but some do have such facility.

Table No.10

Table showing Income level of respondents

Sr.No.	Details of annual income	Number	Percent
1.	Below Rs. 10,000	16	32
2.	Between 10,000/- to 20,000/-	17	34
3.	Between 20,000/- to 30,000/-	05	10
4.	Between 30,000/- to 40,000/-	06	12
5.	Between 40,000/- to 50,000/-	04	08
6.	Above Rs. 50,000/-	02	04
	Total	**50**	**100**

The table indicates that 16 (32 percent) respondents have their annual income below Rs. 10,000/-; 17 (34 percent) have their annual income between Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/-; 5 respondents (10 percent) belong to the income group of Rs. 20,000/- to 30,000/- per annum, and 6 respondents (12 percent) belong to the income level of Rs. 30,000/- to 40,000/-; 4 respondents (8 percent) belong to the income bracket of Rs. 40,000/- to 50,000/- and lastly 2 respondents (4 percent) earn annually more than Rs. 50,000/-.

Thus maximum number of respondents (17) earn between Rs. 10,000/- to 20,000/- followed by 16 respondents earning less than Rs. 10,000/- per annum (BPL). At the contrast, only 2 respondents earn more than Rs. 50,000/- annually, who are comparitively richer than the rest of all.

Table No.11

Table showing annual expenditure level of respondents

Sr.No.	Details regarding exp. level	Numebr	Percent
1.	Below Rs. 10,000/-	19	38
2	Between Rs. 10,000/- to 20,000/-	12	24
3.	Between Rs. 20,000/- to 30,000/-	09	18
4.	Between Rs. 30,000/- to 40,000/-	05	10
5.	Between Rs. 40,000/- to 50,000/-	05	10
	Total	**50**	**100**

It is een from the above table that 19 respondents (38 percent) spend less than Rs. 10,000/- annually; 12 respondents (24 percent) have their expenditure level between Rs. 10,000/- to 20,000/- 9 respondents (18 percent) spend between Rs. 20,000/- to 30,000/- and 5 respondents (10 percent) spend annually between Rs. 30,000/- to 40,000/- and lastly 5 resondents (10 percent) have the expenditure level, as high as Rs. 40,000/- to Rs. 50,000/-.

Thus, the largest number of respondents (19) belong to lowest level of expenditure (below Rs. 10,000/-). They seem to live below substentance level; followed by 12 respondents, spending between Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/-. In contrast, least no.of respondents belong to higher level of expenditure (Rs.30,000/- to 40,000/- and Rs. 40,000/- to Rs.50,000/-) five number in each category.

Table No.12

Table showing the debt of the respondents

Sr.No.	Details (whether incurred the debt)	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	17	34
2.	No	33	66
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus 17 (34 percent) respondents have incurred the debt; but 33 (66 percent) have not incurred any debt. In other words, more respondents are without debt; and few of them have some debt.

Table No.13

Table showing the source of debt of respondents

Sr.No.	Details of source of debt	Number	Percent
1.	From the Bank	12	24
2.	Fromthe relatives	05	10
3.	Those not having debt	33	66
	Total	**50**	**100**

The table shows that 12 respondents (24 percent) have incurred debt from the bank; whereas 5 (10 percent) have incurred debt from the relatives. As mentioned earlier, 33 respondents have not taken any debt.

It is evident that out of those who have incurred debt; more of them have taken from the bank and less number have taken it from relatives.

Table No.14

Table showing the purpose of debt

Sr.No.	Details regarding purpose of debt	Number	Percent
1.	For development of Agriculture	05	10
2.	For marriages of offsprings	05	10
3.	For construction of house	07	14
4	Not having debt	33	66
	Total	**50**	**100**

It is clear from the table that 5 respondents (10 percent) have taken debt for development of their agriculture and improve their economic conditions. Other5 (10 percent) have taken debt for marriages of their offsprings; which is their social responsibility; 7 res;ondents (14 percent) have taken debt for construction of their houses; which is also necessary for decent living.

Table No.15

Table showing the amount of debt.

Sr.No.	Details of amount of debt	Number	Percent
1	Upto Rs. 10,000/-	12	24
2.	Between Rs. 10,000/- to 20,000/-	04	08
3.	Between Rs. 20,000/- to 30,000/-	01	02
4	Those not having debt	33	66
	Total	**50**	**100**

The table indicates that 12 (24 percent) respondents have incurred debt upto Rs. 10,000/-; 4 resondents (8 percent) have taken debt between Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/- and one respondent (2 percent) have incurred debt work Rs. 20,000/- to Rs. 30,000/-.

Thus more number of respondents have incurred debt for less amount; and gradually when the amount of debt increases, there are less and less number taking more debt, as seen in the table :12.

2. VADODARA DISTRICT

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF RESPONDENTS OF VADODARA DISTRICT

The Socio-economic conditions of the respondents of Vadodara district has been found during the survey as under :

Table No. 16

Table showing castes of the respondents of Vadodara District

Sr.No.	Details (caste of respondents)	Number	Percent
1	Patel	06	12
2.	Rajput	05	10
3.	Harijan	14	28
4	Tribals	22	44
5.	Baxipanch (SEBC)	03	06
	Total	**50**	**100**

The table shows the distribution of respondents according to castes. There are 6 respondents (12 percent) from Patel community; 5 from Rajput (10 percent); 14 (28 percent) from Harijans; 22 (44 percent) from Tribals and lastly 03 (6 percent) from Baxipanch (SEBC).

The largest number of respondents (22) are from tribals, followed by Harijans (14). The rest of the respondents are from Patels (6), Rajput (5) and Baxipanch (3) Among tribals in Vadodara District are Rathwa, Tadvi etc.

Table No.17

Table showing age of respondents

Sr.No.	Details of age	Number	Percent
1.	18 to 30 years	15	30
2.	31 to 40 years	21	42
3.	41 to 50 years	13	26
4.	51 to 60 years	01	02
	Total	**50**	**100**

According to the details of the table, there are 15 (30 percent) respondents in the younger age group of 18-30 yesrs; there are 21 (42 percent) respondent from the age group of 31-40 years; there are 13 (26 percent) respondents from the age group of 41 - 50 years; and there is only one respondent (2 percent) in the age group of 51 to 60 years.

Thus, maximum number of respondents belong to age group of 31 to 40 years (21 respondents accounting for (42 percent); followed by 15 (30 percent) in the younger age group of 18 - 30 years. The respondents in the elderly age group of 41 - 50 years are quite less (13 accounting for 26 percent); There is only one single respondent in the age group of 51 years and above, accounting for just 2 per cent of the lot.

Table No.18

Table showing education level of respondents

Sr.No.	Details (education level)	Number	Percent
1.	Illiterate	04	08
2.	Can read and write	08	16
3.	Primary level	19	38
4.	Secondary level	18	38
	Total	**50**	**100**

The table indicates that 04 respondents (8 percent) are totally illiterate; and double of them (8 i.e. 16 percent) can only read and write. There are 19 respondents (38 percent) who have reached note primary level and 19 (38 percent) have reached upto secondary level.

Thus, thereare equal number of respondents (19 each) who have reached upto primary and secondary level. There are 4 (8 percent) respondents who are totally illiterate and there are 8 more who can only read and write, Vadodara district was formerlly ruled ruled by Gaikwads and the usual literacy rate is comparitively higher in this district. Never the less, there are such number of people who have not been to formal system of education; which was compulsory even 5 - 6 deades before.

Table No.19

Table showing conditions of houses

Sr.No.	Details (Conditions of houses)	Number	Percent
1.	Kutcha	27	54
2.	Pucca	23	46
	Total	**50**	**100**

It is clear from the table that 27 (54 percent) houses are Kutcha and 23 (46 percent) houses are pucca. This is not any remarkable difference. They are almost divided into just equal numbers. Secondly, kutcha or pucca, all the houses are owned by the respondents. This fact perhaps matters.

An the respondents (village panchayat members) of selected villages of selected talukas are married. None is unmarried, or widow, divorced etc.

(2) ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF RESPONDENTS (Village Panchayat Members) OF VODODARA DISTRICT :

The economic conditions of the respondents of Vadodara district was found from the details below :

Table No.20

Table showing main occupations of the respondetns

Sr.No.	Details (Main occupation)	Numbers	Percent
1.	Agriculture	45	90
2.	Trade/commerce	05	10
	Total	**50**	**100**

As seen above, 45 (90 percent) of the respondents have the agriculture as their main occupations. Only 5 (10 percent) the Trading/commerce as their main occupation. This is a negligible number, and as such, we can generalise their respondents of Vadodara district have agriculture as their occupation.

Table No.21

Table showing the subsidiary occupations

Sr.No.	Details (Reg.subsidiary occupation)	Number	Percent
1.	Animal Husbandry	29	58
2.	Commerce / Trade	07	14
3.	Agriculture Labour	11	22
4.	Other	03	06
	Total	**50**	**100**

The table indicates that 29 (58 percent) respondents have animal husbandry as their subsidiary occupation; 07 respondents (14 percent) have commerce as their subsidiary occupation; 11 respondents (22 percent) have agriculture labour as their subsidiary occupation and 3 (6 percent) have any other subsidiary occupation.

As it is seen from analysis of the table, animal husbandry is a subsidiary occupation followed by as many as 58 percent respondents. The next in order comes agriculture labour which is followed by 22 percent respondents. Both these subsidiaryoccupations are closely related to agriculture; and the number of respondents following them are 80 percent both put to gether. This confirms that basically the respondents are agriculture based for their economic living. This will be further confirmed by the details which follow :

Table No.22

Table showing whether respondent have land

Sr.No.	Details (whether having land)	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	48	96
2.	No	02	04
	Total	**50**	**100**

The table confirms the above interpraction that the respondents are basically agro-based. As many as 48 (96 percent) respondents own the land and obviously they cultivate the land for their living. Only 2 respondents donot have any land.

Table No.23

Table showing holding of land

Sr.No.	Details reg.holding of land	Number	Percent
1.	Below 5 acres	09	18
2.	Betwen 5 to 10 acres	26	52
3.	Between 11 to 15 acres	13	26
4.	Between 16 to 20 acres	02	04
	Total	**50**	**100**

It is seen from the table that 9 (18 percent) respondents own land below 5 acres; whereas largest no.of respondents (26 i.e. 52 percent) own 6 to 10 acres of land. Next in order are 13 (26 percent) respondents who own 11 to 15 acres of land. Only 2 (4 percent) respondents are more than16 acres of land. All the land shown in this table is cultivable land. 68 percent of respondents (34) take only one crop in a year; and 28 respondents (14) take two crops in a year. The usual crops in the district of Vadodara are Maize, Paddy, Suger-Cane, Juwar, Bajra, Urad, Tuver, Tobacco, Greenbin, Wheat etc.

Table No.24

Table showing the irrigation facilities in Vadodara District

Sr.No.	Details reg. irrigation facility	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	21	42
2.	No	29	58
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus, less than half 21 (42 percent) have the irrigation facility. Rest of them do not have irrigation facility.

Table No. 25

Table showing annual income of the respondents

Sr.No.	Annual Income Rs.	Number	Percent
1.	Below Rs.10,000/-	-	-
2.	Between Rs.10,000/- to Rs.20,000/-	18	36
3.	Between Rs. 20,000/- to Rs.30,000/-	29	58
4.	Between Rs.30,000/- to Rs.40,000/-	01	02
5.	Between Rs. 40,000/- to Rs.50,000/-	02	04
	Total	**50**	**100**

Interestingly, there is not a single respondent having annual income below Rs. 10,000/-. Thus, there is no BPL respondents.

The respondents in the income bracket of Rs. 10,000/- - Rs. 20,000/- are 18 (36 percent). Those having the annual income between Rs. 20,000/- to Rs.30,000/- are 29 (58 percent). Only one respondent reported to be his income between Rs. 20,000/- to Rs. 30,000/- and there are 2 respondents in the income bracket of Rs. 40,000/- toRs.50,000/-.

This provides good data. In the first place, no respondent is having income below Rs. 10,000/-. This is a distinguishing feature of Vadodara District. In the districts which we saw earlier, there are at least some respondents in BPL group (below Rs. 10,000/-). But in this district there is none. Secondly, here we see that no.of respondents in the income bracket of Rs. 20,000/- - Rs. 30,000/- are more (29) than those in the lower income bracket of Rs. 10,000/- - Rs. 20,000/-.

Thus from financial point of view, the respondents of this district are rather better off as compared to their counterpart in other districts. However, in further analysis of data in higher income group, there are very few respondetns (one and two respectively in the age brackets of Rs. 30,000/- - Rs. 40,000/- and Rs. 40,000/- - Rs. 50,000/- respectively.

Table No. 26

Table showing level of annual expenditure

Sr.No.	Details (level of expenditure)	Number	Percent
1.	Rs.10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/-	20	40
2.	Rs.20,000/- to Rs.30,000/-	27	54
3.	Rs.30,000/- to Rs.40,000/-	01	02
4.	Rs.40,000/- to Rs.50,000/-	02	04
	Total	**50**	**100**

Since there is no respondent in BPL group earning below Rs. 10,000/-, there is no such respondent spending less them Rs.10,000/- p.a. in this table also.

20 respondents (40 percent) spend between Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/- and 27 spend between Rs. 20,000/- to Rs. 30,000/-. There 2 groups tgether account for 94 percent of total respondents; meaning there by that only 3 respondents (6 percent) have been able to afford annual expenditure in higher rage than this.

Table No.27

Table showing whether there is debt incurred by respondents

Sr.No.	Details if the debt incurred	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	12	24
2.	No	38	76
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus 12 (24 percent) respondents have incurred some debt; but larger number (38) have not incurred any debt which is worked out at 76 percent.

Table No.28

Table showing the source of debt

Sr.No.	Details reg.source of debt	Number	Percent
1.	Bank	12	24
2.	No debt	38	76
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus all 12 respondents who had incured some debt, had taken it from bank only. None of them had resorted to money lender or relative.

Table No.29

Table showing the purpose of Debt.

Sr.No.	Details of purpose debt	Number	Percent
1.	For agricultural improvement	10	20
2.	For construction of house	02	04
3.	Not having debt	38	76
	Total	**50**	**100**

Out of 12 respondents, 10 have taken loan for inprovement of their agriculture; so that they get beter production and improve their economic conditions. 2 of them have incurred debt for construction of a house, which can lead them to better living.

Table No.30

Table showing the amount of debt

Sr.No.	Details regarding amount of debt	Number	Percent
1.	Below Rs. 10,000	07	14
2.	Between Rs. 10,000/- - Rs. 20,000/-	05	10
3.	No debt	38	76
	Total	**50**	**100**

Out of 12 persons, who have incurred some debt, 7 have restricted it to below Rs. 10,000/- and 5 of them have taken better Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/- no body had incurred debt for higher amoutn.

3. KUTCH DISTRICT

The socio-eonomic conditions of the Kutch District was studied through the Village Panchayat members of selected 10 villages from selected two talukas of Kutch District.•The details are as under :

Table No.31

Table showing castes of respondents

Sr.No.	Details regarding caste	Number	Percent
1.	Patel	16	32
2.	Rajput	01	02
3.	Harijan	07	14
4.	Baxipanch (SEBC)	05	10
5.	Muslim	14	28
6.	Brahmin	07	14
	Total	**50**	**100**

Among the caste-wise distribution of respondents of Kutch District, the iargest number is that of Patels (16 i.e. 32 percent) followed by Muslims (14 i.e. 28 percent). Next in the order are both Brahmins and Harijans at 7 each i.e. 14 percent each and 5 respondents and last in order is Rajput, only 1 respondent representing 2 percent.

Table No.32

Table showing age of respondents

Sr.No.	Age group	Number	Percent
1.	18 to 30 years	02	04
2.	31 to 40 years	10	20
3.	41 to 50 years	19	38
4.	51 to 60 years	17	34
5.	More than 60 years	02	04
	Total	**50**	**100**

As could be seen in the table, both in the younger age-group (18 to 30 years) and older age group(more than 60 years) there are less no.of respondents (2 each i.e. 4 percent); but in all middle age groups viz 31 to 40 yrs., 41 to 50 years and 51 to 60 yesrs, there are 10 (20 percent) 19 (38 percent) and 17 (34 percent) respondents respectively. These Panchayats, seem to be represnted by younger and middle age-group of people, who are usually deligent, dynamic and enthusiastic.

Table No.33

Table showing education level of respondents

Sr.No.	Details regarding education level	Number	Percent
1.	Illiterate	08	16
2.	Can only read & write	07	14
3.	Primary education level	19	38
4.	Secondary education level	14	28
5.	Higher education level	02	04
	Total	**50**	**100**

Totally 8 (16 percent) respondents are illiterate and 7 (14 percent) have not taken any formal education; but can only read and write. There are 18 (38 percent) respondents who have reached upto Primary education level; and 14 (28 percent) respondents, who have reached secondary education level. Those who have been able to reach upto Higher Education are only 2 (4 percent) in number.

Thus a large number of respondents have obtained primary education; followed by those who have obtained secondary education.

Table No.34

Table showing conditions of house

Sr.No.	Details reg.conditions of house	Number	Percent
1.	Kutcha	13	26
2.	Pucca	37	74
	Total	**50**	**100**

Quite a good number of respondent are having pucca houses as it is evident from the above table. Only13 (26 percent) have kutcha houses. All the houses are self-..... No respondent stays in rented house.

As regards marital status, all except 2 respondents are married. These two are widows.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF RESPONDENTS OF KUTCHH DISTRICT (MEMBERS OF VILLAGE PANCHAYATS)

The economic conditions of the respondents (village panchayat members) was studied on the basis of selected ten villages of selected two talukas of Kutchh District. Here, we have details :

Table No.35

Table showing main occupations of respondents

Sr.No.	Details of main occupation	Number	Percent
1.	Agriculture	15	30
2.	Trade/Commerce	08	16
3.	Animal Husbandry	09	18
4.	Casual Labour	15	30
5.	Job/Employment	03	06
	Total	**50**	**100**

Unlike in other districts, in the district of Kutchh, the respondents are widely distributed in several main occupations. In a main occupation of Agriculture, we find 16 respondents (30 percent); but again equal number of respondents (15) are found fillowing casual labour as their 9 respondents (18 percent) following animal husbandry as main occupation; and 8 (16 percent) respondents following commerce/ trade as main occupation. This leaves a small number (3) (6 percent) respondetns following job/employment.

Thus, we cannot conclude that agriculture is the main occupation of respondents in this district; though largest number follow it; because the number is not that large (only 30 percent). This is how, the respondents of this district have been distributed in various occupation.

Table No.36

Table showing subsidiary occupation of the respondents.

Sr.No.	Details of subsidiary occupation	Number	Percent
1.	Animal Husbandry	17	34
2.	Trade / Commerce	04	08
3.	Agriculture Labour	29	58
	Total	**50**	**100**

In contrast to the above information regarding main occupation; this table regarding subsidiary occupation, brings us a different picture.29 respondents (58 percent) follow agriculture labour as subsidiary occupation; followed by 17 respondents (34 percent) who have animal husbandry as their subsidiary occupation. Both these occupations are primarilly agriculture-related. Only 4 (8 percent) respondents were following trade/commerce as their subsidiary occupation.

Table No.37

Table showing whether respondents have land

Sr.No.	Details whether they have land	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	18	36
2.	No	32	64
	Total	**50**	**100**

This table again supports our previous hypothesis that the respondents of this district are not primarilly agriculturists. Only 18 (36 percent) respondents have some land; but 32 (64 percent) donot hold any land. Thus larger number of respondents are without land.

Table No.38

Table showing the holding of land by respondents

Sr.No.	Details regarding holding of land	Number	Percent
1.	Below 5 acres	02	04
2.	Between 6 to 10 acres	11	22
3.	Between 11 to 15 acres	04	08
4.	16 acress more	01	02
5.	Not holding any land	32	64
	Total	**50**	**100**

As stated in previous table, there are only 18 respondents holding any land. Now, we see in this table, 11 respondents out of these 18 respondetns have the holding of land between 6 to 10 acres; and 4 have land between 11 to 15 acres. Thus large no.of holders have medium level holding of land (bet. 6 to 15 acres). Interestingly only 1 respondent has land above 16 acres; and 2 of there have less than even 5 acres. Thus, large number of land holders are medium level holders, with a very small number on both extremes.

The land shown in the table is cultivable. usually one crop is taken from the land because of scarce rains and absence of irrigation facility. The usual crops in this part of the state are groundnut, juwar, bajra, tobacco, green biks, wheat etc.

Table No.39

Table showing the facility of irrigation

Sr.No.	Details whether irrigation facility exists	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	02	04
2.	No	48	96
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus, most of the respondents donot have any irrigation facility. Only 2 respondents are reported to have this facility.

Table No.40

Table showing annual income of respondents

Sr.No.	Details regarding income level	Number	Percent
1.	Below 5,000/-	08	16
2.	Between Rs.5,000/- to Rs.10,000/-	14	28
3.	Between Rs.10,000/- to Rs.20,000/-	18	36
4.	Between Rs.20,000/- to Rs.40,000/-	06	12
5.	Between Rs.30,000/- to Rs.40,000/-	02	04
6.	Between Rs.40,000/- to Rs.50,000/-	02	04
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here we have some information regrading economic conditions of the respondents through their income level. Here are details :

All 50 respondents have been distributed among 6 income brackets. In the first place, we have 8 respondetns, earning less than Rs. 5,000/- per annume. They can be categorised as extremely poor peole. We also have 14 (28 percent) earning between Rs. 5,000 to Rs.10,000/-. According to Govt. norms, they are BPL. Thus, totally 22 (44 percent) i.e. nearly half of the total respondents are among BPL list. Likewise, we have 18 (36 percent) respondents earning between Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/- and 6 respondetns (12 percent) earning between Rs. 20,000/- to Rs. 30,000/-. Both this to-gether is worked out at 48 percent i.e. nearly half number of respondents. They are reported to have been earning between Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 30,000/- per annum. They can be catogorised as belonging to middle class income groups. This leaves 4 respondents (8 percent) who belong to comparitively higher income

groups 2 belonging to Rs.30,000/- to Rs.40,000/- one and two belonging to Rs. 40,000/- to Rs.50,000/- one. To sum up : 22 respondents belong to BPL income level, 24 respondents belong to middle income level & 04 respondents belong to somewhat higher income level.

Table No.41

Table showing expenditure level of respondents

Sr.No.	Details regarding expenditure level	Number	Percent
1.	Below Rs.50,000/-	10	20
2.	Between Rs. 5,000/- to Rs. 10,000/-	12	24
3.	Between Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/-	19	38
4.	Between Rs. 20,000/- to Rs. 30,000/-	05	10
5.	Between Rs. 30,000/- to Rs.40,000/-	02	04
6.	Between Rs. 40,000/- to Rs. 50,000/-	02	04
	Total	**50**	**100**

This table also taken the matter to same logical sequence.

It is seen that 10 respondents (20 percent) spend less than Rs. 5,000/- per annum. This level of expenditure is living below substistance level in utter poverty. Again, 12 respondents (24 percent) annually spend between Rs. 5,000/- to Rs. 10,000/-. This is also an expenditure level below poverty line. Thus nearly one golf of total participants live below poverty live. Then we have 19 respondents (38 percent) spending between Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/-; and 5 respondents spending annually Rs. 20,000/- to Rs. 30,000/-. This can be considered as middle class standard. Lastly we have a few fortunutes who can spend Rs. 30,000/- to Rs. 40,000/- (2) and Rs. 40,000/- to Rs.50,000/-. (2)

Table No.42

- **Table showing if the respondents have debt.**

Sr.No.	Details if there is debt	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	10	20
2.	No	40	80
	Total	**50**	**100**

This is another interesting feature. Though the income and expenditure level of these respondents are just average, only 10 (20 percent) respondents have incharged some debt. Most of them (80 percent) have not taken any debt.

Table No.43

Table showing the source of debt.

Sr.No.	Details regarding source	Number	Percent
1.	From the Bank	07	14
2.	From the relatives	03	06
3.	Not having debt	40	80
	Total	**50**	**100**

Out of those to respondents who have taken debt, 7 (14 percent) have taken debt frombank and 3 (6 percent) from the relatives.

Table No.44

Table showing the purpose of debt.

Sr.No.	Details regarding purpose of debt.	Number	Percent
1.	For improvement of agriculture	05	10
2.	For construction of a house	02	04
3.	For marriages of the offsprings	03	06
4.	Not having any debt	40	80
	Total	**50**	**100**

The 10 respondents who have taken debt have taken for various purposes both social and economic. Half of them (5) have taken for agriculture inprovement; 3 for marriges of the offsprings and 2 for constructin of houses.

Table No.45

Table showing the amount of debt.

Sr.No.	Details regarding amounting of debt.	Number	Percent
1.	Below Rs. 10,000/-	05	10
2.	Between Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/-	04	08
3.	Above Rs. 20,000/-	01	02
4.	Persons not having debt.	40	80
	Total	**50**	**100**

The table indicates the amount of debt in respect of 10 respondents who have incurred the debt. 40 respondents,as we know, have not incurred any debt.

The table shows an interesting trend regarding the amount of debt. There are 5 respondents who have the debt amounting to Rs. below 10,000/-. These in the groups of debt between Rs.10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/- are 4 and in last category there is only one respondent who has taken debt above Rs.20,000/-. Thus, the no.of respondents decrease, as the amount of debt increases. This can be interpreted in this way. The respondents of this district have shown the tendenly of not taking any debt as for as possible; but in case of requirement for incurring some debt, they prefer to be satisfied with as less amount as possible/

4. SABARKANTHA DISTRICT

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF RESPONDENTS OF SABARKANTHA DISTRICT

The Socio-economic conditions of the respondents was studied on the basis of selected respondents of Himmatnagar and Khedbrahma Talukas of Sabarkantha District. There are some details. :

Table No.46

Table showing castes of respondents

Sr.No.	Details regarding cast	Number	Percent
1.	Patel	22	44
2.	Harijan	03	06
3.	Tribals	16	32
4.	Baxipanch (SEBC)	02	04
5.	Brahmin	01	02
6.	Muslim	06	12
	Total	**50**	**100**

The table shows the representation of various caste among the respondents of Sabarkantha District.

There are 22 Patel, which is the largest in number (44 percent); followed by 16 number of tribals (32 percent); with 6 Muslims in third order (12 percent), 3 Harijan (6 percent) 2 Baxipanch (SEBC) 4 percent and last in order is only one Brahmin (2 percent)

It is again to be noted that all tribal respondents are from Khedbrahma taluka only, and none from Himmatnagar Taluka, Khedbrahma is basically a tribal area. This tribals are Dungari Garasia.

Table No.47

Table showing Age of Respondents

Sr.No.	Details regarding Age	Number	Percent
1.	Between 18 to 30	05	10
2.	Between 31 to 40	20	40
3.	Between 41 to 50	20	40
4.	Between 51 to 60	02	04
5.	Above 60	03	06
	Total	**50**	**100**

This table shows the 5 (10 percent) respondents belong to be young age group of 18-30 years. In both the age groups of 31-40 and 41-50. We find 20 respondents each both together counting for 80 percent of respondents. If all three put together, they represent 90 percent respondents below the age of 50. Above 50, we have again 2 groups; 2 (4 percent) respondents in the age group of 51-60 and 3 (6 percent) above 60. Thus in each age group, we have more or less number of respondents but in the age bracket between 18 to 50. We have 90 percent respondents. It can said that this district is governed by middle age group people.

Table No.48

Table showing education level of respondents

Sr.No.	Details reg.education level	Number	Percent
1.	Illiterate	06	12
2.	Can read & write	05	10
3.	Primary Education level	23	46
4.	Secondary Education level	11	22
5.	Higher Education	05	10
	Total	**50**	**100**

This table throws light on education level of respondents. There are 6 (12 percent) respondents who are totally illiterate and there are other 5 (10 percent) who can only read and write. There are 23 (46 percent) who have reached upto primary education level and there are 11 (22 percent) who have reached upto secondary education level. There are also 5 (10 percent) who have reached upto Higher Education level. As for as level of education is concerned, there are less and less number when the level of education goes up. Nevertheless, we have quite a good number of respondents (78 percent) who are educated. Thus, by and large, the Panchayats in this district are in the hands of educated people.

Table No.49

Table showing conditions of houses

Sr.No.	Details of conditions of house	Number	Percent
1.	Kutcha House	29	58
2.	Pucca House	21	42
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus, 29 (58 percent) respondents stay in Kutcha houses; and only 21 (42 percent) stay in pucca houses. All the houses both Kutcha and Pucca are self-ownerd by the respondents themselves. No one stays in rented house.

Besides all the respondents of this district are married. None is unmarried, or widow or divorced.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF RESPONDENTS

The following data reflects the economic conditions of the respondents.

Table No. 50

Table showing main occupations of the respondents

Sr.No.	Details regarding main occupation	Number	Percent
1.	Agriculture	41	82
2.	Cosual Labour	05	10
3.	Trade/Commerce	03	06
4.	Animal Husbandry	01	02
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus, as many as 41 (82 percent) are directly depending on agriculture as their main occupation followed by just 10 percent following casual labour as main occupation. Next in order are those following trade and commerce (3) and animal husbandry (1). Thus, the main occupation of the respondents is agriculture.

Table No.51

Table showing subsidiary occupation of respondents

Sr.No.	Details reg.subsidiary occupation	Number	Percent
1.	Casual Labour	44	88
2.	Trade/Commerce	05	10
3.	Animal Husbandry	01	02
	Total	**50**	**100**

This table throws light on other side. Whereas a large number of persons are dependent on agriculture, as their main occupation; here, for subsidiary occupation, of such large number of respondents is casual labour. This labour could be related to agriculture or could not be also. Other 10 percent have trade as their subsidiary

occupation, and only 1 (yes, only one) has animal husbandry as his subsidiary occupation.

Table No.52

Table showing whether responds have land

Sr.No.	Details whether having land	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	45	90
2.	No	05	10
	Total	**50**	**100**

In previous pages we had seen that 41 (82 percenr) responds have agriculture on the main occupation. Here we are told that 45 (90 percent) responds have land and only 5 (10 percent) do not here any land.

Table No.53

Table showing the holding of land

Sr.No.	Details regarding holding of land	Number	Percent
1.	Below 5 acres	38	76
2.	Between 5 to 10 acres	07	14
3.	Not having any land	05	10
	Total	**50**	**100**

The table shows that as many as 76 percent (38) respondents have the land just below 5 acres and 14 percent (7) respondents have the land between 6 to 10 acres have land. Thus it can be seen that the respondents though mainly dependent on agriculture have a very small piece of land. These could be said to be small or marginal ..... Nevertheless, the land was cultivable and could produce maize, Paddy, Ground-nut, Juwar, Tabacco, Green Bin, Vegetables etc.

Table No. 54

Table showing the no.of crops taken by respondents

Sr.No.	Details regarding no.of crops	Number	Percent
1.	One crop in a year	28	56
2.	Two crops in a year	08	16
3.	Three crops in a year	06	12
4.	Those not having land	08	16
	Total	**50**	**100**

So far, we have seen the respondents taking one or sometimes two crops in a year. In this table, for the first time, we come across. The respondents taking even 3 crops in a year. Let us have same more details.

We have 28 (56 percent) respondents who take only one crop in a year; and we have 8 respondents (16 percent) who take 2 crops in a year. Further, we have 6 (12 percent) respondents take even 3 crops in a year; which is an unique feature. Though this number is small it makes a new landmark. It is presumed that better irrigation facilities could have facilitated this.

Table No.55

Table showing whether respondents have irrigation facility.

Sr.No.	Details whether there is any irrigation facility	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	29	58
2.	No.	21	42
	Total	**50**	**100**

This table indicates that more number of respondents (29) have irrigation facility and less number (21) donot have this facility. The irrigation facility generally

include 9 Borepump (tubewell pattern). This irrigation facility makes it possible to take two and three crops.

Table No. 56

Table showing annual income of responents

Sr.No.	Annual Income	Number	Percent
1.	Below Rs.10,000/-	25	50
2.	Between Rs.10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/-	10	20
3.	Between Rs.20,000/- to Rs.30,000/-	03	06
4.	Between Rs.30,000/- to Rs. 40,000/-	08	16
5.	Between Rs.40,000/- to Rs.50,000/-	03	06
6.	Above Rs. 50,000/-	01	02
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here is an income group distribution of the respondents. Exactly half (25 out of 50) respondents each below Rs. 10,000/-. They are all BPL. They are poor among poors. Next in order are 10 respondents earning between Rs. 10,000/- to Rs.20,000/-. They also cannot be said to be much better off. The remaining 15 respondents have been distributed in higher income ranges of Rs. 20,000/- to Rs. 30,000/-, Rs. 30,000/- to Rs.40,000/-, Rs. 40,000/- to Rs.50,000/- and above Rs. 50,000/-. They represent 3, 8, 3 and 1 respectively.

Thus the maximum income group is above Rs. 50,000/- which 3 respondents following in that group.

Table No.57

Table showing level of expenditure of respondents

Sr.No.	Details of level of expenditure	Number	Percent
1.	Below Rs.10,000/-	31	62
2.	Between Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/-	10	20
3.	Between Rs. 20,000/- to Rs. 30,000/-	03	06
4.	Between Rs. 30,000/- to Rs. 40,000/-	03	06
5.	Between Rs. 40,000/- to Rs. 50,000/-	03	06
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus a large number of respondents (31) annually spend below Rs. 10,000/- . They have been living below substistence level. Their income level doesnot allow them to spend more. Again, next in order are 10 (20 percent) respondents whose expenditure level is between Rs.10,000/- to Rs.20,000/-. They are also marginal ones. Next in order are 3 respondents (6 percent) who show the annual expenditure level of Rs. 20,000/- to Rs. 30,000/-. They can be termed as middle class respondents, alongwith another 3 also who spend between Rs. 30,000/- to Rs. 40,000/-. Both these are middle class persons. Then, last in the order are 3 respondents (6 percent) whose expenditure level is between Rs. 40,000/- to Rs. 50,000/- which can be considered to be fairly good among that commity.

Table No. 58

Table showing whether the respondents have debt

Sr.No.	Details if the respondents have debt	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	26	52
2.	No	24	48
	Total	**50**	**100**

The table shows that the respondents are almost equally (26:24) distributed in matter of having or not having the debt.

Table Bo. 59

Table showing the source of debt

Sr.No.	Details regarding source of debt	Number	Percent
1.	From the Bank	16	32
2.	From the relatives	10	20
3.	Not having debt	24	48
	Total	**50**	**100**

26 out of 50 (52 percent) respondents have incurred the debt; of which 16 have taken in from the bank and 10 have done it from the relatives. More number of respondents resort to banks and less to relatives in case of such debt.

Table No.60

Table showing the purpose of debt

Sr.No.	Details regarding purpose	Number	Percent
1.	For development of agriculture	19	38
2.	For marriages of the off springs	04	08
3.	For construction of Building	03	06
4.	Persons not having debt	24	48
	Total	**50**	**100**

As we know, 26 (48 percent) have not incurred any debt. Now, out of remaining 26, 19 have taken debt for the improvement of their agriculture. This is sufficiently large number, who seem to be concerned about their agriculture. This is a good sign.

The improved agriculture shall provide better yeild to them in future, 4 respondents have taken debt for marriages of their offsprings which is their social responsibility. 3 respondents (6 percent) have taken debt for construction of houses which is for their future decent living.

Table No.61

Table showing the amount of debt

Sr.No.	Details regarding amount of debt	Number	Percent
1.	Below Rs. 10,000/-	13	26
2.	Between rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/-	06	12
3.	Between Rs. 20,000/- to Rs. 30,000/-	03	06
4.	Between Rs. 30,000/- to Rs. 40,000/-	04	08
5.	Not having any debt	24	48
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus, largest number of respondents (13) have the debt below Rs. 10,000/- Nevertheless, equal no.of respondents (13) have incurred more amount of debt ranging from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 40,000/-.

JUNAGADH DISTRICT.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE RESPONDENTS OF JUNAGADH DISTRICT

The Socio-economic conditions of the respondents of Junagadh District was assessed on the basis of respondents identified from selected talukas (Vanthli and Talala) of Junagadh District. Hereby we have some details :

Table No. 62

Table showing castes of the respondents

Sr.No.	Details regarding caste	Number	Percent
1.	Patel	20	40
2.	Harijan	10	20
3.	Rabari (Baxipanch/SEBC)	15	30
4.	Brahmin	01	02
5.	Muslim	04	08
	Total	**50**	**100**

The table indicates that 20 respondents (40 percent) are Patels which are is largest lot; followed by Rabari (15 i.e. 30 percent), and next in order are Harijans (10 i.e. 20 percent). There are 4 Muslims (8 percent) and lastly only 1 Brahimin. Thus this is a mixed group representing various castes and communities.

Table No.63

Table showing Age of the Respondents

Sr.No.	Details regarding age	Number	Percent
1.	Between 18 to 30 years	07	14
2.	Between 31 to 40 years	17	34
3.	Between 41 to 50 years	25	50
4.	Between 51 to 60 years	01	02
	Total	**50**	**100**

The respondents in the age group of 18 to 30 years, are 7 (14 percnet) but when we more to higher age-group we find more and more number, except that in the group of 50 puls, there is only one respondent. Thus, the Panchayats seem to be in the hands of middle aged matured persons to great extent.

Table No. 64

Table showing education level of respondents

Sr.No.	Details regarding education level	Number	Percent
1.	Illiterate	12	24
2.	Can read and Write	07	14
3.	Upto Primary level	25	50
4.	Upto Secondary level	06	12
	Total	**50**	**100**

The table throws light on education level of the respondents of Junagadh District. Whereas there are 12 (24 percent) totally illiterate and 7 (14 percent who can only read and write; placing 12 + 7 = 19 respondents out of the formal education system. This number is comparivitely larger than the districts discussed before. An other interesting characteristic that appears from above data is that no one respondent has reached beyond secondary level and obtained higher education. Even in secondary level, the number (6) is comparitively less.

With 25 (50 percent) respondents in Primary education level and 6 (12 percent) in Secondary level; we can say that the education level in this district is rather low as compared to privious districts.

Table No.65

Table showing condition of house

Sr.No.	Details regarding condition of house	Number	Percent
1.	.Kutcha	08	16
2.	Pucca	42	50
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus, quite a large number (42) of respondents have pucca house to stay. Only 8 of them have kutcha houses. All of them stay in their own houses.

As for as marital status is concerned; all the respondents are married, no one is unmarried or widow/divarcee etc.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF RESPONDENTS OF JUNAGADH DISTRICT.

The economic conditions of the respondents of Junagadh District were studied on the basis of following data.

Table No.66

Table showing main occupation of the respondents

Sr.No.	Details regarding main occupation	Number	Percent
1.	Agriculture	42	84
2.	Trade/Commerce	02	04
3.	Animal Husbandry	01	02
4.	Casual labour	05	10
	Total	**50**	**100**

Obviously evident from the above table, quite a large number (42) of respondents (84 percent) have agriculture as their main occupation. Next in order

are 5 (10 percent) following casual labour and 2 following trade/commerce with the remaining last 1 (2 percent) following animal husbandry.

There is no surprise that quite a large lotfollows agriculture; but in Talala Taluka, which is part of gir region, how come there is only one following agriculture husbandrya great surprise.

Table No.67

Table showing subsidiary occupation of the respondents

Sr.No.	Details regarding subsidiary occupation	Number	Percent
1.	Animal Husbandry	19	38
2.	Commerce/Trade	05	10
3.	Agriculture labour	26	52
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here we find that respondents following agriculture labour as sabsidiary occupation are more than half (26 out of 50), whereas those following animal husbandry are 19 (38 percent). A few respondents numbering 5 (10 percent) follow trade/commerce as subsidiary occupation. Thus both agriculture labour and animal husbandry dominate the sphere of subsidiary occupation, both to-gether covering 90 percent (45) respondents.

Table No. 68

Table showing whether respondents own land

Sr.No.	Details whether owns land	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	42	84
2.	No	08	16
	Total	**50**	**100**

The table shows that as many as 42 (84 percent) respondents own the land. This is quite a good number. Only 8 respondents donot own land.

Table No.69

Table showing the holding of land

Sr.No.	Details regarding holding of land	Number	Percent
1.	Below 5 acres	19	38
2.	Between 6 to 10 acres	16	32
3.	Between 10 to 15 acres	07	14
4.	People donot hold land	08	16
	Total	**50**	**100**

We have been told earlier that 8 respondents (16 percent) donot hold any land; but out of those 42 holding the land, 19 hold land below 5acres. They are small & marginal farmers There are 16 (32 percent) who have the holding between 6 to 10 acres. This is also not very attractive holding. There are only seven who hold the land between 10 to 15 acres. They have reasonable price of land to cultivate.

The land is indeed cultivable, and the usual production is Ground-nut, Millet, Tuver etc. Out of these land holders 19 respondents take only one crop and 23 respondents take two crops in a year. Those having irrigation facility can take two crops a year; but those who have no irrigation facility can take only one crop a year.

Table No.70

Table showing whether irrigation facilities exist.

Sr.No.	Details whether irrigation facility exist.	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	23	46
2.	No	27	54
	Total	**50**	**100**

It is clear from the table that nearly half of the respondents (23 out of 50) have irrigation facility and remaining 27 donot have this facility.

Table No.71

Table showing level of annual income of respondents

Sr.No.	Details regarding level of income	Number	Percent
1.	Below 5,000/-	01	02
2.	Between Rs.5,000/- to Rs.10,000/-	05	10
3.	Botweeb Rs. 10,000/- to Rs.20,000/-	11	22
4.	Between Rs. 20,000/- to Rs. 30,000/-	21	42
5.	Between Rs. 30,000/- to Rs. 40,000/-	11	22
6.	Above Rs. 40,000/-	01	02
	Total	**50**	**100**

In the lowest income group (below 5,000/0_ there is only 1 responent; and in the next group between5,000/- to 10,000/- there are 5 respondents. Thus, these 6 respondents live below poverty line. In the middle in comebrackets of Rs.10,000/- to Rs.20,000/- and Rs.20,000/- to Rs.30,000/- there are 11 and 21 respondents respectively accounting for 32 together (64 percent). Another 11 (22 percent) belong to Rs. 30,000/- to Rs. 40,000/- group and last 1 belong to above Rs. 40,000/- group. These 12 respondents (24 percent) can be said to be better of as compared to heir other counter part.

Table No.72

Table showing annual level of expenditure

Sr.No.	Details regarding level of expenditure	Number	Percent
1.	Below Rs.10,000/-	07	14
2.	Between Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/-	13	26
3.	Between Rs. 20,000/- to Rs. 30,000/-	23	46
4.	Between Rs. 30,000/- to Rs. 40,000/-	07	14
	Total	**50**	**100**

There are 7 respondents (14 percent) who spend below Rs. 10,000/- annualy. They can be clasified as belonging to BPL level. There are 13 (26 percent) who spend Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/-. They are also marginal group of people. There are 23 respondents (46 percent) who spend between Rs. 20,000/- to Rs. 30,000/- and there are further 7 (14 percent) who spend more than Rs. 40,000/- per annum. These 23 + 7 = 30 respondents who could be classified as 'better off' as compared to their counter part.

Table No.73

Table showing if there is debt

Sr.No.	Details if there is a debt	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	11	22
2.	No	39	78
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus, only 11 respondents have incurred debt. A large no.of respondents (39 out of 50) have not incurred the debt.

Table No.74

Table showing the source of debt

Sr.No.	Details regarding source	Number	Debt
1.	From the Bank	08	16
2.	From the Money lender	01	02
3.	From the relatives	02	04
4.	Not having debt	39	78
	Total	**50**	**100**

Out of 11 respondents who have incurred debt, 8 have taken it from Bank; only one has taken from moeny lender and two have taken fromrelatives. Thus, mostly, they have resorted to Bank.

Table No.75

Table showing the purpose of debt.

Sr.No.	Details regarding source	Number	Percent
1.	For improvement of agri.	04	08
2.	For construction of house	03	06
3.	For marriages of their off springs	02	04
4.	For other purpose	02	04
5.	Those not having any debt	39	78
	Total	**50**	**100**

As know to us, 39 (78 percent) have not incurred any debt; but those 11 who have incurred some debt have done it for variety of purposes. Four of them have done for inprovement of their agriculture; which will result in better yield of crops. 3 of

them have taken debt for construction of houses, which can also result in decent living for them. 2 of them have taken it for marriages of their off springs; which is a part of their social responsibility and 2 others have taken for purposes other them listed above. They have incurred debt for some vocation/shop etc. This pattern of purposes of debt has emerged from the table.

Table N0.76

Table showing amount of debt.

Sr.No.	Details regarding amount of debt	Number	Percent
1.	Below Rs. 10,000/-	10	20
2.	Between Rs. 10,000/- to Rs.20,000/-	01	02
3.	Not having debt	39	78
	Total	**50**	**100**

Whereas 39 respondents have not incurred any debt; 10 out of 11 who have incurred it, amounts to less than Rs. 10,000/-. There is only one respondent who has incurred debt above Rs. 10,000/-.

Thus, in this chapter, we have discussed the Socio-economic conditions of the Village Panchayat members of various districts. Following general matters have been highlighted.

The members of village panchayats include Patels, Baxipanch (SEBC) members, Members of scheduie caste and schedule tribes etc. Thus this represents the cross section of almost an castes and communities.

It is also found that the level of education is rather low; but all the members have been working with mutual co-operation. Some of the members are found economically backward; because the main occupation is agriculture and the agriculture is largely dependent on monsoon rains; since very few respondents have aqequate irrigation facilities. Therefore, it transpires from the study that economic conditions are yet not better off.

CHAPTER 6

OPINIONS OF THE RESPONDENTS (Members of the Village Panchayats) regarding Gramsabha.

We have seen in the previous chapter that, under the provisions of 73rd constitutional Amendment Act, the Gramsabhas have been empowered with all necessarypowers to enable them to work in the manner as the legislative Assembly in the State functions.

This constitutional provision has been embodied in section 4 of the Gujarat Panchayat Act. Gramsabha means the organisation made of people registered in the Frenchise•List of the village covered in the Panchayat area. As seen earlier, Gramsabhas have been vested with several powers so that it can take important decisions pertaining to the works of village panchayat. According to the Panchayat Act, it is compulsory to convene the meeting of Gramsabha twice a year. Besides, whenever the need arises the Sarpanch can convene a meeting of Gramsabha. The Taluka Panchayat and the District Panchayat can also covene the Gramsabha's extra-ordinary meeting. The first meeting of the Gramsabha is required to be convened before the end of the month of May of the financial year. In this meeting of Gramsabha, the working of the previous year and the annual accounts of the village panchayat are being reviewed. In next Gramsabha meeting, the planning of programme, for the next year is done. If the partnership of the village people is ensured in these two meetings, the panchayat will be transperent and responsible.

In this chapter, a tabular presentation of information is made on the basis of responses received from the people regarding verious questions being asked to them during the field work regarding attitudes and opionions of the people about Gramsabha and also their level of awareness about Gramsabha.

For sake of convinience, this information is divided into two chapters :

(A) Opinions of the respondents (members of village panchayats) regarding Gramsabha; and

(B) Opinions of the respondents (village people) regarding Gramsabha.

During field work, the information has been collected from the respondents regarding Gramsabha from five-five villages of the 2-2- talukas of the districts of Valsad, Navsari, Vadodara, Kuchh, Sabarkantha and Junagadh. Besides this some preliminary information is collected from the members of the village Panchayats of all the districts; about their village Panchayat. There are both single-village panchayats and group village panchayats in Valsad District. In case of single-village Panchayat, the Gramsabha is held independently in a village; whereas in case of group panchayats, the Gramsabha is held jointly for all the villages of that group. In this meeting, discussion is held on the issues related to development of the village. It is also discussed as to eligibility of the beneficiaries in the village regarding various government schemes. usually the notice for the Gramsabha meeting is given to the people of the village 7 - 8 days in advance through a peon.

It is learnt during interviews with the respondents in the villages under study that hardly in few villages the Nyay Samiti is constituted. In most of the (committee for Justice) at all. The justice in such villages is given by the traditional "Panch" of the concerned village. The respondents, however feel that in either case, they get justice satisfactorilly.

The opinions of the village Panchayat members regarding, Gramsabha have been recorded in the following pages :

1. VALSAD DISTRICT

Table No.6.1

Table showing if the members of the village Panchayat know what is Gramsabha

Sr.No.	Details regarding knowiedge about Gramsabha	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	44	88
2.	No	06	12
	Total	**50**	**100**

44 respondents (88 percent) reported that they know what Gramsabha is. Only 6 said that they donot know about it. These are village Panchayat members, and it is expected from al of them to know about Gram Sabha; and therefore there is no surprise that large number of members know about it.

Table 6.2

Table showing various meaning of Gramsabha

Sr.No.	Details	Number	Percent
1.	In Gramsabha, the people of the Village come to-gether and discuss various issues related to development of Village.	27	54
2.	In Gramsabha, they discuss about succession of account holders and about development of weaker sections.	01	02
3.	In Gramsabha, all the villagers of the village jointly submit the report of the work done and them they planfor new works	12	24
4.	Gramsabha is a meeting in which the men and women of 18 years come together and discuss about some issues.	04	08
5.	Do not know the meaning of Gramsabha	06	12
	Total	**50**	**100**

It is seen from the above table that different people have given different version about the meaning of Gramsabha. Six respondents have pleaded their total ignorance about the meaning of Gramsabha. The rest of the people who have given the meaning have expressed it in their own words and according to their understanding. The perspective may be differ from person to person.

If we go by the specific meaning attributed to the 'Gramsabha', we can say that only 4 respondents (8 percent) have shown the meaning of Gramsabha. Nevertheless, what other people have experessed at serial no. 1, 2 & 3. They have also expressed their understanding about Gramsabha. That could be partial truth or they might have felt difficulties in expression. The over all impression seems to be that in Gramsabha, the people of the village come together and discuss about the issues related to the development of the village.

The respondents are the member of the Panchayat. (And therefore it is expected that they have some knowledge and understanding); but most of the respondents expressed that the meetings of Gramsabha are held twice at all the places, in a year. They have also expressed that the information about the meeting of Gramsabha is given by the peon home to home.

Table No. 6.3

Table showing the works undertaken by Gramsabha

Sr.No.	Details regarding Gramsabha	Number	Percent
1.	•Those works which have been decided in previous Gramsabha meeting.	04	08
2.	Works related to development of village.	29	58
3.	Works included in the Agends	11	22
4.	Do not know	06	12
	Total	**50**	**100**

The table presents the village Panchayat members' version regarding the works being undertaken by Gramsabha. The respondents express the opinions as per their own understanding.

Morethan half (29) respondents explain that the Gramsabha in their meetings discuss about the works related to development of village. This is the largest group. Next in order are 11 (22 percent) respondents who explain that the Gramsabha, in its meeting discuss the works included in the agenda. There are respondents in a smal number of 4 (8 percent) who explain that in Gramsabha meeting, those works are discussed which were decided in the previous meeting. Their emphasis seems to be on review role of Gramsabha. And ofcourse, six respondents (12 percent) have not any idea regading the functions of Gramsabha.

Table No.6.4

Table showing the presence of members in the Gramsabha Meetings

Sr.No.	Details regarding presence	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	47	94
2.	No	03	06
	Total	**50**	**100**

As many as 47 respondents (94 percent) say that members do remain present in the Gramsabha Meeting; whereas 3 respondents (6 percent) presented that members donot remain present in the meetings of Gramsabha. It can be interprected that usually members do reamin present in Gramsabha meetings; but occossionally sume members remain absent also for some reasons.

Table No.6.5

Table showing participation of women in Gramsabha

Sr.No.	Details regarding attendence	Number	Percent
1.	Attendence by 1 to 5 women	03	06
2.	Attendence by 6 to 10 women	26	52
3.	Attendence by 11 to 15 women	12	24
4.	Attendence by morethan 15 women	09	18
	Total	**50**	**100**

3 respondence reported that 1 to 5 women attend Gramsabha meeting. 26 respondents (52 percent) which represent more than half reported that 6 to 10 women attend Gramsabha meeting. 12 respondents (24 percent) reported that 11 to 15 women attend Gramsabha meeting; and 9 respondents (18 percent) reported that more than 15 women attend Gramsabha meeting.

Thus in Valad District, women in small or big number attend Gramsabha meeting. It is however a matter of concern that according to first 2 groups, 29 respondents (58 percent) less than 10 women attend Gramsabha meeting. This is too small a number to quality the process of participation. Only according to 21 (12 + 9) respondents, the attendence of women is more than 10. This is comparitively a beter sign.

Table No.6.6

Table showing partnership of schedule cast in Gramsabha

Sr.No.	Details regarding S.C.attendence in GS	Number	Percent
1.	•Attendence of S.C. by 1 to 5 members	31	62
2.	Attendence of S.C. by 6 to 10 members	01	02
3.	Having no S.C. population	18	36
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here we see that in some places there is no S.C. population. But where there is S.C. population, a large no.of respondents (31) have reported that the attendence by S.C. members in Gramsabha is between 1 to 5 persons; whereas only 1respondent reported that their attendence is between 6 to 10. Thus practically in all cases, the attendance by S.C. numbers in Gramsabha meeting is 1 to 5 only. Thus, there have been presence of S.C. members in Gramsabha meetings; but the number is quite less and therefore perhaps in effective. However, it should also be considered that in this district, the S.C. population is quite less.

All the respondents have reported that the meeting of Gramsabha is held during the day time.

Table No.6.7

Table showing partnership of Schedule Tribe persons in Gramsabha

Sr.No.	Details regarding attendence of ST in Gramsabha	Number	Percent
1.	Attendence of 1 to 10 ST members	11	22
2.	Attendence of 11 to 20 ST members	08	16
3.	Attendence of 21 to 30 ST members	13	26
4.	Attendence of morethan 31 members	18	36
	Total	**50**	**100**

All the villages under study in this district have schedule tribe population. All the respondents have confirmed the attendence by ST people in Gramsabha meetings; but the number of these attendents vary, More number of respondents (18 out of 50) have reported the presence of ST people in Gramsabha meeting tobe above 31 poeple; and 13 (26 percent) have reported the presence by ST people between 21 to 30. In third order, there are 8 respondents reporting for ST people's attendance between 11 to 20, and lastly there are 11 (22 percent) respondents who report the

attendence of ST people in Gramsabha meeting below 10 persons. Thus, all the respondents report the attendence of ST people in Gramsabha meetings.

All the respondents mention that the Gramsabha meetings are held during day hour.

Table No.6.8

Table showing the attendence by people in Gramsabha

Sr.No.	Details regarding no.of people attending Gramsabha meetings	Number	Percent
1.	Attendence by 20 to 50 people	06	12
2.	Attendence by 51 to 60 people	01	02
3.	Attendents by 61 to 70 people	14	28
4.	Attendents by 71 to 80 people	19	38
5.	Attendents morethan 80 people	10	20
	Total	**50**	**100**

This table indicates the attendence of Gramsabha meetings by the villagers as seen and expressed by the respondents of this study. Quite large number 19 (38 percent) reported to be the presence of 71 to 80 persons in Gramsabha meetings.In next order, 14 respondent (28 percent) shown the presence of people in Gramsabha meeting between 61 to 70 persons. 10 respondents(20 percent) showned the figure to be higher than 80. 6 respondents (12 percent) have indicated the presence of people below 50 and lastly only 1 person showed it to be between 51 to 60.

Here are some more details above Gramsabha meeting. All the respondents confirmed that in the villages of selected talukas of Valsad District, the points to be discussed in Gramsabha meetings are decided in advance and it is notified in the form of agenda. They reported that the Sarpanch and the village Panchayat mem-

bers sit to-gether and decide the agenda. They also mentioned that if there is any dispute or the atmosphere of opposition; the leaders try to resolve it by prudence. They have also expressed there opinion that instead of a single Gramsabha meeting for a group of panchayats, there should be single gramsabha meeting for each village seperately. At present, for a Gramsabha meeting the quoram number is 50. the respondents agreed to this quoram number and further suggested that in case of non-quorum, the meeting should be re-convired. The respondents mentioned that at the time of meetings of Gramsabha, the signatures of the members present is recorded in the register.

Table No.6.9

Table showing the suggestions to muke the Gramsabha strong and effective

Sr.No.	Details regarding suggestions	Number	Percent
1.	To Convene the Gramsabha meeting regularly	16	32
2.	To convene the meetings Gramsabha more frequently	34	78
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here the respondents make original suggestion to strengthen the Gramsabha and make it more effective. Whereas, 16 (32 percent) suggest to convene the meetings of Gramsabha regularly; the suggestion for calling the meetings of Gramsabha more frequently in a year has come from as many as 34 (78 percent) respondents. People in either case want to strengthen the Gramsabha and make it more effective.

Table No.6.10

Table showing if there have been some stumbling blocks against progress of Gramsabha

Sr.No.	Details regarding stumbling block	Number	Percent
1.	Dissatisfaction	05	10
2.	When the development works are not carried out	04	08
3.	No stumblic block	41	82
	Total	**50**	**100**

Most of the respondents felt that there was no stumbling block against the development of Gramsabha, (41 i.e. 82 percent); but, totally 9 of them (18 percent) did feel that there are some stumbling blocks. Five (10 percent) respondents feel that some dissatisfaction in the minds of people is such a stambling block; whereas 4 (8 percent) have opined that when the development works are not carried out, that it self bcomes a stumbling block against progress. Though very few respondents have indicated the stumbling blocks against Gramsabha, they have mentioned two very important factors which can present the progress of Gramsàbha.

Table No.6.11

Table showing the measures for detailed information of Gramsabha to people and for creating awareness among people

Sr.No.	Details regarding measures	Number	Percent
1.	Wide publicity regarding Gramsabha	20	40
2.	Awareness of Govt. Schemes to be given	28	56
3.	Gramsabha meetings to be held more frequently	02	04
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here, we have several measures being suggested by the respondents; so that people become more aware and they get wider knowledge about Gramsabha. The largest number (28 i.e. 56 percent) suggest that the information about the Government Schemes to be given in such Gramsabha. The respondents know that if pepole are given information about such schems, they will be able to get more benefits from the schems, and this will popularise the Gramsabha. Second in order are 20 respondetns (40 percent) who suggest that the wide publicity should be given about the meeting of Gramsabha. If this suggestion is implemented, there will noturally be more knowledge and more under standing. Only 2 respondents have suggested to raise the frequency of the meeting year.

Table No.6.12

Table showing sugestions regarding qutonomy of Gramsabha

Sr.No.	Details of suggestions	Number	Percent
1.	Gramsabha should be an independent body	31	62
2.	Gramsabha should function only as a part of village panchayat	18	36
3.	Do not know	01	02
	Total	**50**	**100**

The questions to the respondents also included one, whether they would like to see Gramsabha functioning in an autonomous way, independent to the village panchayat; or whether they would like it to be a part of village panchayat. Whereas one respondent said that he doesnot know anything regarding this, the opinions of other respondents were divided. As many as 31 (62 percent) respondents expressed that the Gramsabha should function as an independent unit and should maintain its qutonomy. But, in sharp contrast to this, 18 (36 percent) respondents maintained that Gramsabha is a part of village panchayat; and it should continue to act as an intregal part of panchayat only.

Table No.6.13

Table showing reasons for Gramsabha to be autonomous or a part of Panchayat

Sr.No.	Details regarding reasons	Number	Percent
1.	The autonomous Panchyat can give better results	14	28
2.	An independent unit can give transporent accounts	10	20
3.	If Gramsabha acts as a part of Panchayat, it can contribute to better development for an ideal village	18	36
4.	Gramsabha is a part of Panchayat	07	14
5.	Do not know	01	02
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here we find several reasons being put forth in support of one's views expressed in previous table.

Here also there is one respondent who has placed his ignorance in this matter and rettrained from giving any opinion.

18 respondents (36 percent) feel that Gramsabha is only a part of Panchayat; and if it functions in this way, it can contribute to development of village and can make the village an ideal one. There are 7 more respondents (14 percent) who also feel that Gramsabha is a part of village Panchayat and it should play its role within that sphere. 10 respondents (20 percent) however still maintain that for purpose of transperant accounts, autonomy of Gramsabha is necessary; and there are 14 respondents (28 percent) who feel that for better functioning independent existance is necessary.

Table No.6.14

Table showing opinions regarding Gramsabha as a unit

Sr.No.	Details regarding opinion	Number	Percent
1.	Gramsabha should be clusterwise	02	04
2.	Gramsabha should be one for a group of villages	-	-
3.	There should a Gramsabha for each village (small or big)	48	96
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here only 2 respondents opined that there should be cluster-wise Gramsabha; but a large mojority of 48 (96 percent) expressed their opinion that there should be a Gramsabha for each village. The underlying voice behind this opinion can be heard that even if a village is a part of group panchayat, its Gramsabha should be seperate one. This opinion is in support of a disguised feeling that in a joint Gramsabha, often the problems of smal village not properly represented. Therefore, they insist that a Gramsabha for each village is a must.

2. OPINIONS OF VILLAGE PANCHAYAT MEMBERS REGARDING GRAMSABHA IN VADODARA DISTRICT.

In the District of Vadodara, both Vadodara and Chhota Udepur Talukas have been selected for the purpose of this study. Among the villages in Vadodara taluka are (1) Chhani, (2) Dashroth (3) Sakarda (4) Kalyanpura / Fajalpur and (5) Udera.

Among the villages in Chhota Udepur taluka are (1) Ronwad, (2) Ghelwat (3) Ghanghoda (4) Singla and (5) Gabadi.

In this district, we find the small group Gram Panchayats for a group of villages and we do have also an independent Village Panchayat for a village seperately. These Panchayats carry out the works related to development of villages; and they also provide benefit of various government schemes to eligible village people. Most

of the respondents mention that they have been informed about a Gramsabha meeting a week before. Eighty percent of the respondents express that there are no Social Justice Committees for giving justice; but they also maintain that there are "Panch" in the villages which provide justice to people in the village in case of disputes. The opinions of the respondents of Vadodara District on various aspects of Gramsabha are recorded below :

Table No.6.15

Table showing whether the Village Panchayat Memebrs know what is Gramsabha

Sr.No.	Details whether they know	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	50	100
2.	No.	-	-
	Total	**50**	**100**

As very celarly seen in the table, all the respondents (50) without any exception mention that they do know what is Gramsabha.

Table No.6.16

Table showing the meaning of Gramsabha as perceived by the respondents

Sr.No.	Details regarding their understanding about Gramsabha	Number	Percent
1.	Gramsabha is an organised form of villagers, which discuss the problems related to a village	39	78
2.	Gramsabha is a meeting held to discuss the development issues of a village and to implement the development works of a village.	05	10
3.	Gramsabha is a modern form of legal entity which strives for development of village.	04	08
4.	Gramsabha is a meeting of village people which address to the solutions of all the problems of the villages	02	04
	Total	**50**	**100**

The above mentioned opinions of the respondents represnet their views about the meaning of Gramsabha. None of the views can be classified as false; because there is some truth in each expression; but the form of presentation may difyer; because one cannot expect them to be precise and thoronghly clear about the meaning of Gramsabha. We can justly say that each one is right - fully or partially. Let us analyse their narration.

As many as 39 (78 percent) respondents have expressed that Gramsabha is an organised form of all the villagers which discusses the issues relatged to development of village. Here they have mentioned "all the villagers" which precisely should be " all villagers having their names registered in the frenchise list". But otherwise, their version is very much near the truth. Five respondnets (10 percent) have also defined Gramsabha as a meeting which discuss and implement the village development works in consultation with people. Here also, the version is quite acceptable, except that it lacks precision about 'people'. 4 respondents (8 percent) have taken a legal concept, because they know that it is a child of 73rd constitutional amendment act and Gujarat Panchayat Act. They are also right is describing Gramsabha as a modern legal form. Last 2 respondents (4 percent)have taken two broad a meaning, in covering "all problems of the village", but if they could have restricted to problems related to development of village, they could have been right to larger extent. Thus, village panchayat members in Vadodara district are aware about the meaning and functions of Gramsabha.

All the respondents (100 percnet) have expressed that Gramsabha meetings are held twice a year, and the information about the Gramsabha meeting is made by public pronouncement; 7 - 8 days in advance.

Table No. 6.17

Table showing works undertaken by Gramsabha

Sr.No.	Details regarding works	Number	Percent
1.	The discussion about works delided in the previous meeting	11	22
2.	Discussion on and implimentation of all the works related to development of village	39	78
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here also, there is an understanding about the works undertaken in Gramsabha Meeting; but the emphasis is different. 11 respondents (22 percent) who expressed that Gramsabha discusses about the works decided in its previous meeting have placed emphasis on review work done by Gramsabha. What they missed to add was done by remaining 39 (78 percent) respondents who said that Gramsabha makes discussion and then implements all the works related to development of a village. Thus,both the replies put to-gether make a perfect sense about the works undertaken by a Gramsabha.

Table No. 6.18

Table showing opinions of respondents about the attendence of people in Gramsabha

Sr.No.	Details if people attend Gramsabha	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	46	92
2.	No	04	08
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus a large number of respondents (92 percent) expressed their views that people do attend the Gramsabha Meeting. Only 4 respondents said that people donot attend Gramsabha Meeting.

Obviously, if people donot attend the meeting, there could not be quorum; and a meeting cannot be held. Quite a large number of respondents (92 percent) have confirmed that people do attend meeting of Gramsabha; we have to take the opinion of rest 4 (8 percent) in the sense that people donot attend the meeting in the great number, as required.

Table No.6.19

Table shwoing participation of women in Gramsabha as seen by responents

Sr.No.	Details regarding no.of women attending Gramsabha Meeting	Number	Percent
1.	1 to 5 women attend Gramsabha	06	12
2.	6 to 10 Women attend Gramsabha	31	62
3.	11 to 15 Women attend Gramsabha	12	24
4.	Morethan 15 Women attend Gramsabha	01	02
	Total	**50**	**100**

The women's participation in Gramsabha has been indicated through their presence in the meetings of Gramsabha by the respondents in this table. Six respondents (12 per cent) express that only 1 to 5 women are present in the meetings of Gramsabha. A large number of respondents (31) express that 6 to 10 women are present in the meetings of Gramsabha. Both these put together, we can indicate that according to (6 + 31=) 37 respondents, the attendance of women in Gramsabha meetings is less that 10. Thus, in large number of cases, the women's attendance is rather poor. According to 12 (24 per cent) respondents, the number of women who attend the Gramsabha meeting is between 11 to 15, and according to 1 respondent the attendance of women is shown to be 16 or above. These last two put together, tells us that according to (12 + 1 =) 13 respondents, the cases of attendance of women is more than 10. This is perhaps satisfactory number. Thus in large number of cases, the women's attendance in Gramsabha meetings is a matter of concern and needs some corrective measures to be taken.

Table No. 6.20

Table showing the participation of S.C. persons in Gramsabha as viewed by respondents

Sr.No.	*Details regarding attendance by S.C. members*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	1 to 5 S.C. members attend meeting	07	14
2.	6 to 10 S.C. members attend meeting	06	12
3.	11 to 25 S.C. members attend meeting	11	22
4.	More than 15 S.C. members attend meeting	26	52
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here in this table, the respondents present their views as to how many members of Schedule Caste community attend the Gramsabha meeting. In first two vertical columns, we have 13 (7+6) respondents, i.e. 26 per cent telling us about the no. of S.C. community members in Gramsabha meetings at less than 10. This number is rather discouraging. But in two subsequent columns at serial No. 3 and 4, we have 37 (11 + 26) respondents telling us about their attendance at more than 10; which is satisfactory number. In that too, in column No.4, as many as 26 (52 per cent) respondents have shown the presence of S.C. members in Gramsabha meetings at more than 15; which is encouraging.

Table No. 6.21

Table showing the partnership of Schedule Tribe persons in Gramsabha as viewed by respondents

Sr.No.	*Details regarding attendance by Schedule Tribe members*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	1 to 10 S.T. members attend meeting	04	08
2.	11 to 20 S.T. members attend meeting	03	06
3.	21 to 30 S.T. members attend meeting	01	02
4.	More than 30 S.T. members attend meeting	19	38
5.	There is no S.T. population	23	46
	Total	**50**	**100**

In this table, we see at Sr.No. 5 that almost half (23) respondents mention that there is no Schedule Tribe population in their villages. Therefore, the question of their attending Gramsabha meeting will not arise.

But in case of remaining villages, where there is S.T. population, we have the largest number of respondents (19, i.e. 38 per cent), telling us that more than

30 S.T. members attend the Gramsabha meetings. This is indeed an encouraging number attending Gramsabha meetings. At Sr.No. 1, 2, 3 we have less number of respondents (4 + 3 + 1 = 8, i.e. totally 16 per cent) telling us about less no. of S.T. persons (i.e. again less than 30) attending Gramsabha meetings. We can, on the basis of this table, clearly derive a generalisation that, where there is a population of S.T. people, the cases of their attending Gramsabha meetings is rather encouraging, except only in very few cases where the attendance number is less. This was further supported during our study where we could see that in Udepur taluka of Vadodara district, the attendance by S.T. people in Gramsabha was quite high.

The Gramsabha meetings were found to be held during the day time in all these villages.

Table No. 6.22

Table showing partnership of village people in the Gramsabha meetings

Sr.No.	*Details regarding number present*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	20 to 50 villagers attend Gramsabha	—	—
2.	51 to 60 villagers attend Gramsabha	10	20
3.	61 to 70 villagers attend Gramsabha	16	32
4.	71 to 80 villagers attend Gramsabha	14	28
5.	More than 80 villagers attend Gramsabha	10	20
	Total	**50**	**100**

The quorum for Gramsabha meeting is 50; therefore, the attendance by less than 50 persons is out of question. There is 40 such case reported in that group.

The number of village people attending Gramsabha meetings are shown to be varying between 51 to more than 80, as indicated at Sr.Nos. 2 to 5. The numbers of respondents are fairly distributed in these four different groups, but not any sharp difference could be seen to be analysed.

The agenda for the Gramsabha meeting is decided in advance. If there is any disputable matter or some possibility of opposition etc., that is being resolved by mutual understanding by the village 'panch' or leaders such occasions happen very rarely.

All the respondents mentioned that proper record is maintained about the members attending the meetings of Gramsabha. They all further said that the minutes book of Gramsabha is kept wherein the resolutions passed by the Gramsabha are recorded. In the same book, the signatures of the members attending the meeting of the Gramsabha is obtained. However, during the field work, in one of the villages of Chhota Udepur taluka, the research team paid visit to the Gramsabha meeting, in which, the team asked the Talati (Secretary) to show the minutes of the previous Gramsabha meeting, which he could not produce. The research team took note of this incident for their record. The respondents mentioned that in Gramsabha meeting, the works pertaining to the problems of the village and the programmes related to poverty alleviation were taken on hand. It was further learnt that the well awakened and educated people take active interest in the working of Gramsabha.

Table No. 6.23

Table showing measures to be taken to strengthen the Gramsabha and make it effective as suggested by respondents

Sr.No.	*Details of measures suggested*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	The meetings of Gramsabha should be held regularly	26	52
2.	The meetings of Gramsabha should be held more frequently	24	48
	Total	**50**	**100**

There are two sets of suggestions by the respondents to strengthen the Gramsabha and to make it more effective. In both these suggestions, the respondents are almost equally (26:24) distributed. 26 respondents (52 per cent) suggest that the meetings of the Gramsabha should be held regularly; and the other 24 (28 per cent) respondents suggest that the meetings should be held more frequently in a year. In both these responses, we can read the mind of respondents who seem to be genuinely concerned about the strength and effectiveness of Gramsabha.

Table No. 6.24

Table showing stumbling blocks against working of Gramsabha as seen by respondents

Sr.No.	*Details regarding stumbling block as perceived*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	When the villagers have no unity	30	60
2.	When the members are not informed in advance	13	26
3.	There is no stumbling block	07	14
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here we find in this table that 7 respondents (14 per cent) opine that there is no stumbling block against working of the Gramsabha; meaning thereby, that the functioning is smooth throughout. Nevertheless, there are others who differ, and they have their reasons to differ. There are 30 (60 per cent) respondents who express that there are chances for Gramsabha to have hurdles in its working, if there is no unity among village people. There are other 13 respondents (26 per cent) who express the apprehension that there could be hurdles in the working of Gramsabha; when the advance intimation (regarding some important decisions to be taken in the meeting of Gramsabha) is not given to the members. Both these opinions seem to be valid because they are based on practical life experience.

Table No. 6.25

Table showing measures for providing wider information to people and to make them more aware

Sr.No.	*Details regarding measures suggested*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	Wider publicity should be given for Gramsabha meeting	23	46
2.	The meetings of Gramsabha should be called more frequently	27	54
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here there are two sets of suggestions for providing wider information to people and to make them more aware.

23 respondents (46 per cent) suggest for wider publicity of the Gramsabha meeting should be given. 27 respondents (54 per cent) made a suggestion for more frequent meetings of Gramsabha. The suggestions are very simple and need no further elaboration or analysis.

Table No. 6.26

Table indicating whether Gramsabha should be autonomous or should function as a part of Village Panchayat according to respondents

Sr.No.	*Details regarding opinion*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	Gramsabha should be autonomous to Village Panchayat	48	96
2.	Gramsabha should function as a part of Panchayat	02	04
	Total	**50**	**100**

Surprisingly as many as 48 (96 per cent) respondents from Vadodara district held the opinion that Gramsabha should function independently as autonomous body; whereas only 2 (4 per cent) respondents opined that Gramsabha should function only as part of Village Panchayat.

Table No. 6.27

Table showing reasons why Gramsabha should function independently or as a part of Panchayat

Sr.No.	*Details regarding reasons*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	By autonomy, the development works can be completed speedily & new works also can be planned	24	48
2.	Gramsabha is a part of Village Panchayat and should act only	18 as in part	36
3.	If the Gramsabha functions independently, its accounts can be transparent	08	16
	Total	**50**	**100**

This is in relation to previous table wherein the reasons for previous contentions are provided.

There are 24 respondents (48 per cent) who justify their stand of autonomous Gramsabha by maintaining that the autonomy will result in speedy disposal

of developmental works and future planning. There are more 8 persons who opine that the autonomy of Gramsabha will ensure transparent accounting. Here in this table, as contrast to previous one, as many as 18 (as compared to only 2) respondents who give the opinion that the Gramsabhas are part of Village Panchayat and therefore should act as only in integral part.

Table No. 6.28

Table showing the Gramsabha's unit sphere

Sr.No.	Details regarding Gramsabha's unit sphere	Number	Percent
1.	There should be cluster-wise Gramsabha	—	—
2.	The Gramsabha for Group of villages should be at group of village level	19	38
3.	There should be a Gramsabha at each village level - small or big	31	62
	Total	**50**	**100**

No respondent advocate for cluster-wise Gramsabha/. There are 19 (38 per cent) respondents who give the opinion that the Gramsabha should be of the group of villages where there are two or more villages are clustered together; whereas there are as many as 31 (62 per cent) respondents who feel that even for a small village, there should be separate Gramsabha. Their rationale should be that, in order to voice their concern for development, they must have separate Gramsabha; otherwise their voice will not be heard.

3. OPINIONS OF MEMBERS OF VILLAGE PANCHAYAT REGARDING GRAMSABHA IN KUTCHH DISTRICT

In the district of Kutchh, we have selected Bhuj and Mandvi talukas for the present study of Gramsabha.

In Bhuj taluka, we have selected the villages of (1) Bhujodi, (2) Deshalpar, (3) Chhachhala, (4) Golpar and (5) Vadasar.

In Mandvi taluka, we have selected following 5 villages, viz. (1) Mota Layaja,. (2) moti Rayan, (3) Durgapur, (4) Bhirisra and (5) Janakpur.

Table No. 6.29

Table showing whether respondents know the meaning of Gramsabha

Sr.No.	*Details regarding meaning of Gramsabha*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	Yes	47	94
2.	No	03	06
	Total	**50**	**100**

As many as 47 (94 per cent) respondents said that they know the meaning of Gramsabha. Only 3 (6 per cent) said they do not know the meaning of Gramsabha.

Table No. 6.30

Table showing meaning of Gramsabha as narrated by the respondents

Sr.No.	*Details regarding meaning of Gramsabha*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	Gramsabha is a meeting of all the village people having their names in franchise list of village	08	16
2.	Gramsabha is a combined form of all the villagers which discuss the development matters of the village	11	22
3.	Gramsabha is a meeting of villages where in they discuss the issues of development of village	26	52
4.	In Gramsabha, the report of works carried out in a village is presented	02	04
5.	Do not know the meaning of Gramsabha	03	06
	Total	**50**	**100**

As stated in previous table, there are 3 respondents, who do not know the meaning of Gramsabha; but 47 respondents do know that. Here in this table, we have different versions of these 47 respondents about their understanding of Gramsabha.

8 respondents (16 per cent) explain as a meeting of all those village people whose name appear in the voting list. They have correct and perfect vision of Gramsabha; but they failed to mention that they discuss issues related to development of a village and take and implement appropriate decisions.

Respondents at Sr. No. 2 and 3 (11 + 26 = 37) express almost the same meaning except that the words 'combined together' does not appear in Sr. No. 3. Both these respondents (11 + 26 = 37) also understand the main aspect of the meaning that the problems of development of a village are discussed and

decided in Gramsabha. 2 respondents (4 per cent) at Sr. No. 4 mention about only presentation of the report of works done. This is true only in limited serve. Their understanding about Gramsabha is inadequate and incomplete.

Thus, by and large, respondents in Kutchh district do have knowledge about meaning of Gramsabha; but their understanding sometimes is partial and sometimes incomplete.

All the respondents have confirmed that Gramsabha meetings are called twice a year and this is pronounced through a peon about a week in advance.

Table No. 6.31

Table showing working of Gramsabha as seen by respondents

Sr. No.	*Details regarding working*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	Works as decided in previous meeting	28	56
2.	All the works pertaining to development of village	21	42
3.	As per agenda	01	02
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here also, the respondents have tried to attempt as per their understanding and vision. Therefore, the responses, though true from a limited point of view, are neither perfect nor so precise. As many as 28 (56 per cent) respondents maintain that the Gramsabha carries out those works, which are decided in previous meeting. Here perhaps the reference is towards planning which was done for next year. Nevertheless, there are always several works which might be taken up afresh. But that aspect is lacking here. 21 respondents (42 per cent) refer to all the developmental works of the village. They are also true in so far as, development

works are to be taken up by Gramsabha Samitis. only one respondent maintained that works as per agenda are taken up in Gramsabha. This is mere truism. Yes, works according to agenda are taken up. But what are they? This aspect is missing in this response.

Thus, the responses are not wrong from any angle, but they do not explain a picture in totality.

Table No. 6.32

Table indicating attendance of Village Panchayat members in Gramsabha meetings

Sr.No.	*Detail*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	Yes	49	98
2.	No	01	02
	Total	**50**	**100**

Practically all the respondents maintained that Village Panchayat members do remain in Gramsabha meetings. Only one respondent responded in negative. Thus almost all respondents confirm the presence of Village Panchayat members in Gramsabha meetings, except one. He might perhaps be referring to occasional absence of some of the Village Panchayat members.

Table No. 6.33

Table showing partnership of women in Gramsabha

Sr. No.	*Details regarding no.of women attending Gramsabha meetings*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	1 to 10 women attend Gramsabha meetings	41	82
2.	11 to 15 women attend Gramsabha meetings	06	12
3.	More than 15 women attend Gramsabha meetings	03	06
	Total	**50**	**100**

As many as 41 (82 per cent) respondents said that in Gramsabha meetings, the presence of women is between 1 and 10. Six (12 per cent) respondents contended that there are 11 to 15 women present in Gramsabha meetings; and a very small marginal number of 3 (6 per cent) respondents said that more than 15 women attend Gramsabha meetings. From the above data it can be concluded that in large number of Gramsabha meetings, the presence of women is less than 10; and only in few cases, it exceeds 10 or 15. Thus, the presence of women in Gramsabha meetings could be said to be very very less. Usually in our male dominated society, where all major and important decisions, even in family, are taken by male. Therefore, the women avoid to attend such meetings. Besides, their shy and introvert nature, less education, presence of elderly people and sometimes that of officials prevent them from attending such meetings, especially in villages. Besides, they have to attend to their routine household work also.

Table No. 6.34

Table showing participation of Schedule Caste people in Gramsabha

Sr. No.	*Details regarding no. of Schedule Caste persons attending Gramsabha meetings*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	1 to 10 SC persons attend Gramsabha meetings	35	70
2.	11 to 15 SC persons attend Gramsabha meetings	11	22
3.	More than 15 SC persons attend Gramsabha meetings	04	08
	Total	**50**	**100**

As many as 35 (70 per cent) respondents reported that the presence of SC persons in Gramsabha meetings is less than 10. 11 respondents (22 per cent) mention that 11 to 15 persons attend the Gramsabha meetings; whereas the number of respondents stating such number to be more than 15 are only 4 (8 per cent).

We can infer from these figures that in large number of cases of Gramsabha meetings, the attendance of SC persons is usually less than 10; and in few such meetings only, their attendance is more. Thus, participation of Schedule Caste people in Gramsabha can be described as 'not so satisfactory'.

Table No. 6.35

Table showing partnership of Schedule Tribe in Gramsabha

Sr. No.	*Details regarding no. of Schedule Tribe persons attending Gramsabha meetings*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	1 to 10 ST persons attend Gramsabha meetings	42	84
2.	11 to 15 ST persons attend Gramsabha meetings	02	04
3.	More than 15 ST persons attend Gramsabha meetings	06	12
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here also, in case of ST persons attending Gramsabha meetings, the picture does not seem bright. As many as 42 respondents (84 per cent) mention that the no. of persons attending Gramsabha meetings is only 1 to 10. Those indicating such presence between 11 to 15 are only 2 respondents and those stating the presence ST persons in Gramsabha meetings to be more than 15 are 6 respondents. Thus, in case of Schedule Tribe also, we can make a general statement that in most cases, their attendance in Gramsabha meetings is less than 10; and in only few cases it exceeds 10.

Here we cannot overlook one significant fact. In the district of Kutchh, the population of Schedule Tribe is low and therefore one cannot expect more attendance.

It was further learnt, that unlike in other districts, in this district of Kutchh, the Gramsabha meetings are held at night, because during day hours, a large mass of people are out for work/ labour.

Table No. 6.36

Table showing the attendance of people in Gramsabha

Sr. No.	*Details regarding attendance of people in Gramsabha*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	Between 12 to 50 people	08	16
2.	Between 51 to 60 people	09	18
3.	Between 61 to 70 people	19	38
4.	Between 71 to 80 people	07	14
5.	More than 80 people	07	18
	Total	**50**	**100**

8 Respondents indicate the number of people in Gramsabha meetings at less than 50; whereas 9 respondents put the figure between 51 to 60. As many as 19 (38 per cent) respondents put this figure between 61 to 70 and 7 respondents indicate this to be between 71 to 80. Those placing the figure as high as, more than 80 are only 7 respondents.

So, there have several variations regarding the attendance in Gramsabha meetings.

All the respondents (100 per cent) stated that the agenda for Gramsabha meetings is decided in advance, and this is decided by the Sarpanch and the members of the Village Panchayat.

Usually in Gramsabha meetings in Kutchh district there have been hardly any dispute or a kind of opposition. But in case such things happen, the elderly people of the village, as well as the members of Nyay Samiti resolve such issues.

All the 50 (100 per cent) respondents also shared the feeling that there should be a Gramsabha in each village - small or big.

All the respondents (100 per cent) contended that the Gramsabha meetings in Kutchh district are handled by Sarpanch and in his absence, by a Deputy Sarpanch.

All the respondents (100 per cent) stated that the Quorum for a Gramsabha meeting is fixed at 50 members' attendance. In case on non-quorum, such Gramsabha meetings are convened afterwards.

All the respondents (100 per cent) confirmed that all the Village Panchayat members remain present in the Gramsabha meetings; but it was also stated by few that some of them may not be able to remain present occasionally due to some accidental reasons.

Further, all the respondents (100 per cent) also confirmed that at the time of Gramsabha meeting, the presence of members is recorded with their signature in a minutes book of Gramsabha. In Kutchh district, the Gramsabha, in its meetings, resolve the problems of people and have a thorough discussion in such matters. The Gramsabhas in Kutchh district also arrange for the schemes for the benefits of the poor.

Table No. 6.37

Table showing suggestions for strengthening of Gramsabha and make it effective

Sr.No.	*Details regarding suggestions*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	The meetings of Gramsabha should be held regularly	28	56
2.	The meetings of Gramsabha should be held more frequently	17	34
3.	Do not know	05	10
	Total	**50**	**100**

28 respondents (56 per cent) hold the views that the meetings of Gramsabha should be held regularly; whereas 17 (34 per cent) held the views that there should be more frequently of Gramsabha meetings. 5 respondents have kept away from giving any suggestions.

Thus, for strengthening of Gramsabha and making it effective, 45 respondents have been divided into 2 blocks. One block of 28 respondents is in favour of regular holding of meetings; whereas the second block of 17 respondents is in favour of raising the frequency of meetings of Gramsabha. Both the suggestions are good, practical and can surely strengthen the Gramsabhas and can make them effective too.

Table No. 6.38

Table showing stumbling blocks against working of Gramsabha

Sr.No.	*Details regarding stumbling block*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	When there is no unity in a village	12	24
2.	When village people are not intimated in advance	07	14
3.	There is no stumbling block	31	62
	Total	**50**	**100**

It is indeed encouraging to note that as many as 31 (62 per cent) respondents do not see any stumbling block against working of Gramsabha. Out of those 19, who feel that there is some stumbling block have really pinpointed on genuine issue. 12 of them have said that if there is lack of unity among villagers, the working of Gramsabha is likely to be affected adversely. Another 7 respondents however place more emphasis on awareness and therefore maintain that the working of Gramsabha can be affected if people of the village are not intimated in advance.

Table No. 6.39

Table showing measures for better awareness about Gramsabha among people and to make them more awakened

Sr.No.	*Details regarding measures*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	To make wider publicity of Gramsabha	14	28
2.	To increase the frequency of Gramsabha meetings	36	72
	Total	**50**	**100**

To increase the awareness of people, the respondents have put forth two sets of suggestions. 14 respondents (28 per cent) suggest that wider publicity of the Gramsabha should be made. There are 36 respondents (72 per cent) who suggest that the frequency of Gramsabha meetings should be raised from twice in a year. According to them, if the meetings of Gramsabha are held more frequently (say four times in a year) that will contribute to build better awareness among people. Both the suggestions have some validity in themselves.

Table No. 6.40

Table showing whether the Gramsabha should function in autonomous way or should function as a part of Village Panchayat

Sr.No.	*Details regarding mode of functioning of Gramsabha*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	Gramsabha should have its autonomous status, independent from a Panchayat	22	44
2.	Gramsabha should act only as a part of Panchayat	28	56
	Total	**50**	**100**

The respondents are sharply divided on the issue of autonomy of Gramsabha or its close association with Village Panchayat.

There are 22 respondents (44 per cent) who believe in autonomy of Gramsabha and maintain that it should have its status which is independent to Village Panchayats.

However, there are 28 respondents (56 per cent) who believe that Gramsabha should function only as a part of Village Panchayat. Thus, two opinions in sharp contrast to each other have been received on this issue regarding status of Gramsabha.

Table No. 6.41

Table showing the reasons for autonomy of Gramsabha or why it should function as a part of Panchayat

Sr.No.	*Details regarding reasons*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	If the Gramsabha functions independently to Panchayat, the development of the village becomes speedy.	17	34
2.	If the Gramsabha works independently, the accounts can be transparent	05	10
3.	Gramsabha is a part of the Village Panchayat and therefore it should work as its part only	15	30
4.	If Gramsabha works alongwith Panchayat, the development of a village becomes complete	06	12
5.	Do not know reasons	07	14
	Total	**50**	**100**

This table is in connection with the previous table. In this table, the respondents, put forth their reasons why they want the Gramsabha to function as an autonomous entity, or why it should function as a part of Village Panchayat.

At Sr.No. 1 and 2 there are 22 respondents who are in favour of autonomy of Gramsabha. Out of those 22, 17 have stated that the independent autono-

mous status of Gramsabha can deliver speedy development activities of a village. The remaining 5 out of 22 respondents believe that an autonomous independent Gramsabha can ensure transparency in accounts. They perhaps imply that in working with Panchayat will bring some impurities in the accounts.

Coming to remaining 28 respondents who advocate for Gramsabhas to function as a part of Panchayat, 7 out of these 28 respondents stated that they do not know the reasons for their ideology. So, they have not given any reason in support of their view that the Gramsabha should be a part of the Village Panchayat. Out of 21 remaining, 15 have very clearly stated that Gramsabha has no separate entity of its own; it is very much a part - an integral part of Panchayat; and therefore it should act and function as its part only. The remaining 6 however added that when the Gramsabha works in close co-ordination with Panchayat, it can ensure the total development of village. Therefore, they advocate that Gramsabha should function as a part of Panchayat.

Table No. 6.42

Table showing opinions about unit of Gramsabha

Sr.No.	*Details of suggestions*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	There should be cluster-wise Gramsabha	—	—
2.	The Gramsabha for a group of villages should be at group level	02	04
3.	There should be Gramsabha at each village level	48	96
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here in this table we have only 2 sets of opinions, because no body has favoured an idea of Gramsabha at a cluster level. But in the remaining 2 blocks also, there are only 2 (4 per cent) respondents who have favoured group

Gramsabha for a group of villages; but a large majority of 48 (96 per cent) have strongly suggested for a Gramsabha at each village level - irrespective of its size and its grouping. The obvious reason for this attitude seems to be that they believe that unless there is a separate Gramsabha for each village, the village's problems will not be properly highlighted and the development of village will suffer a set back. Therefore they support for a Gramsabha at each village level.

4. OPINIONS OF THE MEMBERS OF VILLAGE PANCHAYAT OF SABARKANTHA DISTRICT REGARDING GRAMSABHA

In the district of Sabarkantha, we have selected two talukas of Himatnagar and Khedbrahma for the purpose of this study.

In Himmatnagar taluka, the selected villages are (1) Pural, (2) Bavsar, (3) Hadiol, (4) Takhatgadh and (5) Nikoda.

In Khedbrahma taluka, the selected villages are (1) Laxmipura, (2) Kalol, (3) Posina, (4) Kamwas and (5) Amba Mahuda.

In Sabarkantha district also, there are single village panchayat and group panchayat for a group of villages. The respondents state that the Gramsabha for a single village level is organised at the village level; whereas in case of group panchayat, the joint Gramsabha is convened at a group of village level. The pronouncement for a Gramsabha is made a week before the meeting. In Gramsabha meeting, the development works for a village and the schemes for elimination of poverty are discussed. The Social Justice Systems have yet not been constituted in quite a large number of villages. However, the satisfactory justice is provided to the villages by the 'panch' of the village in public.

Table No. 6.43

Table showing whether people know the meaning of Gramsabha

Sr.No.	*Details*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	Yes	34	68
2.	No	16	32
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus 34 (68 per cent) respondents claim to be knowing the meaning of Gramsabha; but quite a large number (16) i.e. 32 per cent do not know the meaning of Gramsabha.

Table No. 6.44

Table showing how do they perceive the meaning of Gramsabha

Sr.No.	*Detail regarding perceived meaning*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	Gramsabha means that the people of the village together discuss the problems of a village	17	34
2.	In Gramsabha, they present the report of the works done in previous year; and make planning for the new year	25	50
3.	Gramsabha means the village people together plan for new works	07	14
4.	Do not know the meaning of Gramsabha	11	22
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here we find different version amount Gramsabha, 17 respondents (34 per cent) define Gramsabha where the people of the village together discuss the problems of village. This is indeed true; but the people are those whose name appear in the voting list. This aspect is missing in Sr.No.1. At Sr.No.2, 25 respondents (50 per cent) tell us about the presenting of the report of previous year and

planning for next year. This is also true, but there is no mention about developmental activities of the village. At Sr.No.3, 7 respondents talk about planning for new works. This is not a complete meaning of Gramsabha. Gramsabha is a lot more than this. And last of all, there are 11 respondents do not know the meaning of Gramsabha at all. Thus, regarding the real, true and complete meaning of Gramsabha, all the respondents have some lapses.

The meetings of Gramsabha do not meet twice in a year as provided. It was also revealed during the study that sometimes, the meeting of Gramsabha are not called at all.

Table No. 6.45

Table showing the frequency of Gramsabha meeting

Sr.No.	*Details regarding frequency of Gramsabha meetings*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	Once in a year	30	60
2.	Twice in a year	10	20
3.	Never	10	20
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus, according to 30 respondents, the Gramsabha meeting is held once in a year; whereas according to 10 respondents, no Gramsabha meeting is held at all.. According to 10 respondents only, the Gramsabha meeting is held twice as contemplated.

Usually for a Gramsabha meeting, the pronouncement is made or circular is put on notice board about a week in advance. In Gramsabha meeting, the works related to development of village are discussed and decided.

Table No. 6.46

Table showing the working of Gramsabha as seen by respondents

Sr.No.	*Details regarding works*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	The works as decided in the previous Gramsabha meeting	02	04
2.	The works related to development of village	35	70
3.	Works as per agenda	13	26
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here we can see that the respondents narrate their own version about working of Gramsabha. The views expressed by them cannot be ruled out, but they do not express the complete process. E.G. 2 respondents mention about the discussion on works decided in previous meeting. They refer the planning made in that meeting. Likewise when 13 respondents mention that works as per agenda are taken up in the meeting; it is expression of mere truism. Yes, agenda items are discussed; but what is the context in that agenda is also to be seen and expressed. Among these, when 35 respondents (70 per cent) express that in the Gramsabha meeting the works pertaining to development of village works, this response is very much nearer the truth.

Table No. 6.47

Table showing the presence of Village Panchayat members in Gramsabha meeting

Sr.No.	*Details showing presence*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	Yes	34	68
2.	No	16	32
	Total	**50**	**100**

34 respondents (68 percent) mention that the members of the Panchayat attend Gramsabha meeting; but 16 respondents (32 percent) mention that they do not attend the meeting of Gramsabha . This paradox can be explained by stating that usually the members do attend the Gramsabha meeting; but on occasions, they might be missing it due to other social obligations or illness etc.

Table No. 6.48

Table showing women's partnership in Gramsabha

Sr.No.	*Details regarding no. of women attending Gramsabha meeting*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	1 to 5 women attend G.S. Meeting	16	32
2.	More than 6 women attend G.S. Meeting	23	46
3.	No women attend G.S. Meeting	11	22
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here in Sabarkantha district, we find 11 respondents telling us that women do not attend Gramsabha meeting. Even when 16 + 23 = 39 mention that women attend the Gramsabha meeting, the number indicated by them is so meagre. According to 16 respondents, the no. of women attending Gramsabha meeting are less than 5, and 23 mentioned this figure to be between 6 and 10. Thus, at any rate, attendance by women, the Gramsabha meetings, the picture is very gloomy. The partnership of women is very poor.

Table 6.49

Table showing partnership of Schedule Caste persons in Gramsabha meetings

Sr.No.	*Details regarding presence of Schedule Caste*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	6 to 10 SC persons attend Gramsabha	14	28
2.	More than 10 SC persons attend Gramsabha	22	44
3.	There is no SC population	14	28
	Total	**50**	**100**

Out of 50 respondents, 14 mention that there is no Schedule Caste population in the village. In such cases, there is no question of their attending Gramsabha meetings.

Out of remaining 36 respondents, quite a large number (22) mention that more than 10 SC persons attend Gramsabha meetings; whereas 14 respondents mention about their number between 6 and 10.

From the analysis of the above figures, we can make a general statement that, where there is a Schedule Caste population in a village, usually the SC people do not attend the Gramsabha meetings in fairly good number.

Table No. 6.50

Table showing partnership of Schedule Tribe people in Gramsabha meetings

Sr.No.	*Details regarding Schedule Tribe persons attending Gramsabha meetings*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	11 to 20 ST people attend Gramsabha meetings	11	22
2.	More than 20 ST people attend Gramsabha meetings	19	38
3.	There is no ST population in the village	20	40
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here in this table, we have 20 respondents who mention that there is no Schedule Tribe population in their villages and therefore the question of their attending Gramsabha meetings will not arise. Out of remaining 30 respondents, as many as 19 pointed out that persons belonging to ST, attend Gramsabha meetings in a number which is more than 20. The remaining 11 respondents figure such member attending the Gramsabha meetings by ST people between 11 and 20.

It therefore becomes clear that wherever there is Schedule Tribe population in the villages, they do attend meeting in fairly good number. Therefore, their attendance is a sign of their active partnership in Gramsabha.

The inquiry also revealed that usually the meetings of Gramsabha are held during night hours; but in some villages they are even held during day hours also. However, it was also learnt that in some of the villages the Gramsabhas are not held at all. This will be clear from a table below.

Table No.6.50

Table showing timings of Gramsabha

Sr.No.	Details regarding time when Gramsabha is held	Number	Percent
1.	It is held during day hours	15	30
2.	It is held during night hours	25	50
3.	Gramsabha is not held at all	10	20
	Total	**50**	**100**

According to 10 respondents (20 percent) the Gramsabha meeting is not convened at all. This is rather non-progressive attitude, unless the Gramsabha meetings are held, now are they going to decide the important matters related to progress of village ? Now for remaining respondents, 25 out of 40 have said that

in their villages, the Gramsabha meetings are held at night when a large number of village people are going out for a work during day hours, it is cinvinient and practical to call the Gramsabha meetings during night hours. According to remaining 15 respondents, the Gramsabha meetings are held in day hours, hopefully due to the convinience of people.

Table No. 6.52

Table showing timings of Gramsabha

Sr.No.	Details regarding attendance by people	Number	Percent
1.	Between 50 and 60 people attend Gramsabha	19	38
2.	Between 61 and 70 people attend Gramsabha	14	28
3.	Between 71 and 80 people attend Gramsabha	05	10
4.	More than 80 people attend Gramsabha	01	02
5.	Do not know	11	22
	Total	**50**	**100**

As many as 11 respondents (22 per cent) have replied that they do not know how many people attend Gramsabha meeting. This shows their apathy. The respondents are Village Panchayat members. They are supposed to have some idea about a no. of members present in Gramsabha. But they simply say, they do not know. Now those who have shown the number of persons attending Gramsabha meeting, respondents at Sr.No. 3 & 4 have respectively given the number between 70 & 80 and 80 plus. The no. of respondents in these series are 5 and 1 respectively. This leads us to conclude that in very few villages the no. of persons remaining present in more number; but in majority of cases, as would be clear from Sr.No 1 & 2, that as many as 19 + 14 = 33 respectively have reported the presence of people between 50 & 70 in Gramsabha meetings. Thus, the presence of people cannot be said largely to be encouraging. A fair no. of people attend Gramsabha meetings.

The agenda for a Gramsabha meeting is decided in advance. There is hardly any incident of dispute or matter of opposition in such meetings. If however, there is any such matter, the Village Panch or the elderly people of the village resolve such disputes. 32 respondents (64 per cent) have opined that there should be a Gramsabha meeting in each village. The quorum for a Gramsabha meeting is fixed at 50. When there is no quorum, the meeting is postponed for a future date.

In Sabarkantha district, according to all the respondents, the record of attendance by people in Gramsabha is maintained and their signatures are obtained.

Likewise, the note of attendance in Gramsabha meeting by Village Panchayat members is also kept in the proceeding book. All respondents have responded to this question alike. The Gramsabha takes up the issues of the village. They also provide benefit of poverty alleviation programmes to poor, needy, eligible people. Usually, the village people in general and the educated people in particular take interest in the Gramsabha meetings in Sabarkantha district.

Table No. 6.53

Table regarding suggestion for strengthening of Gramsabha and to make it effective

Sr.No.	*Suggestions by respondents*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	The meetings of Gramsabha should be held regularly	17	34
2.	People should be given benefits of Government schemes	22	44
3.	Do not know	11	22
	Total	**50**	**100**

It is seen that as many as 11 (22 per cent) respondents have refrained from

making any suggestion for strengthening Gramsabha. This reflects both lack of interest and lack of knowledge. The remaining 39 respondents have been divided into two blocks. 17 respondents (34 per cent) insist on regular holding of meeting of Gramsabha; because they believe that this measure will prove effective. As against this, 22 respondents (44 per cent) hold the view that if Gramsabha has to be effective and strong, it must extend benefits of Govt. schemes of poverty alleviation to people of the village.

Table No. 6.54

Table showing stumbling blocks for Gramsabha

Sr.No.	*Details of stumbling block*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	When there is no unity in village people	11	22
2.	When the advance intimation of meeting is not made	09	18
3.	There is no stumbling block	30	60
	Total	**50**	**100**

The table indicates that as many as 30 respondents do not see any stumbling block for Gramsabha. They seem to believe that the Gramsabhas have smooth ground to function and there is no hurdle whatsoever. Some practical respondents do see some hurdle in way of Gramsabha. 11 respondents have mentioned that lack of unity among village people is a great threat against Gramsabha. Unless people are united, they all will not see in the single direction of progress and development. They will have a divided view; which will affect the smooth functioning of Gramsabha. They seem to have rightly pinpointed the problem. Unity is pre-condition to progress. There are 9 (18 per cent) respondents, who maintain that, when the advance intimation regarding the Gramsabha meeting the hurdle arises. It is however learnt that usually the intimation for a

meeting of Gramsabha is given a week in advance. If however some respondents do not get such advance intimation, they react through such suggestions.

Table No. 6.55

Table showing measures for awareness about Gramsabha and make people awakened

Sr.No.	*Details regarding measures*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	A wide publicity should be given for Gramsabha	22	44
2.	Meetings of Gramsabha should be held more frequently	17	34
3.	Do not know	11	22
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here also 11 respondents simply mention "Don't know". This is lack of interest and feeling of apathy. Out of the remaining 39 respondents, 22 have suggested that wide publicity should be given for Gramsabha if an awareness is to be built. More intensive efforts of dissemination of information can indeed build awareness and can make people awakened about Gramsabha. The remaining 17 respondents (34 per cent) suggest for more frequent meetings of Gramsabha/ This can also be an useful suggestion; because the frequent number of meetings, according to them, will contribute to more awareness.

Table No. 6.56

Table showing the status of Gramsabha - whether autonomous to Village Panchayat or as a part thereof

Sr.No.	*Details of opinion*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	The Gramsabha should be independent to the Village Panchayat and act as autonomous body	27	54
2.	The Gramsabha should function only as a part of Village Panchayat	01	02
3.	Do not know	22	44
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here in this table, as many as 22 respondents (44 per cent) have kept away from giving any opinion about status of Gramsabha. This is quite a good number, who are neutral, and they have not formed their opinion in one or other direction. But from the remaining number (28), 27 respondents are in favour of autonomous status of Gramsabha, independent to the Village Panchayat. Therefore, there remains only one (1) who advocate that the Gramsabha is a part of Village Panchayat and should act as its part only.

Table No. 6.57

Table showing reasons for the proposed status of Gramsabha

Sr.No.	Reason	Number	Percent
1.	Gramsabha should be autonomous and independent; so that transparency in accounts is ensured	25	50
2.	Gramsabha is a part of Village Panchayat; so, it should act only as its part	03	06
3.	Do not know	22	44
	Total	**50**	**100**

This table is in continuation with the previous one; because what has been stated in 6.56 has been elaborated with reasons in 6.57.

Here in this table too, a large no. of respondents (22) have kept away saying "Don't know". So, we have to analyse the remaining numbers. In previous table, only 1 respondent had said that Gramsabha is a part of Village Panchayat; but here we have 3 respondents sharing this view. So, we have 2 persons who have immediately changed their views. The remaining 25 (50 per cent) who are in favour of independent autonomous status for Gramsabha, put forth the only reason that, this will ensure transparency in accounts of Gramsabha.

Table No. 6.58

Table showing suggestions for Gramsabha as a unit

Sr.No.	*Details regarding Gramsabha*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	There should be a cluster-wise Gramsabha	04	08
2.	For Group Villages, there should be Group Gramsabha	—	—
3.	There should be a Gramsabha for each village	46	92
	Total	**50**	**100**

There have been 3 alternatives available to the respondents for their choice of opinion, but one of them is totally rejected by the respondents. There is not a single respondent who favours the Group Gramsabha for a group of villages. There have been 4 respondents (8 per cent) who go to the extent of suggesting Gramsabha at cluster-level. Nevertheless, a large number of respondents (46) have given their opinion that there should be a Gramsabha at village level only. Sometimes, for small-small villages, a Group Village Panchayat is formed. But here, as many as 92 per cent respondents suggest that even for a small village, their Gramsabha should be separate. This opinion has emerged from an apprehension that in case of Group Gramsabha, the dominating village will not give

equal and just chance to a small village. Therefore they favour a separate Gramsabha for each village.

5. OPINION OF VILLAGE PANCHAYAT MEMBERS OF JUNAGADH DISTRICT REGARDING GRAMSABHA

In the district of Junagadh, we have selected Vanthali and Talala talukas for purpose of this study.

In Vanthali taluka, we have selected the following five villages - (1) Navlakhi, (2) Balot, (3) Dhandhusar, (4) Ravuni and (4) Barwada.

In Talala taluka, we have selected following five villages - (1) Galia Bet, (2) Samsher, (3) Borwav, (4) Virpur and (5) Vadala.

Here in Junagadh district, there are only single Village Panchayat. There is not a single Group Village Panchayat. All the respondents (50) know this fact; and they have responded accordingly. These Village Panchayats in Junagadh district attend to the works of development of village, extend the benefits of Government schemes to the poor beneficiaries of the village and also provide public services to the village people. Some respondents related that the Sarpanch gives an intimation of Gramsabha meetings 6-7 days in advance to the members of Gramsabha. However, most of the respondents reported that no such intimation for Gramsabha meeting is given to the members. It was also reported that Social Justice Committee have not been constituted in all villages; and therefore, according to some respondents, satisfactory justice is not available.

Table No. 6.59

Table showing whether villagers know the meaning of Gramsabha

Sr.No.	*Details, if they know the meaning*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	Yes	41	82
2.	No	09	18
	Total	**50**	**100**

It is good that as many as 41 (82 per cent) respondents know the meaning of Gramsabha, but it should be a matter of concern that even 9 (18 per cent) Panchayat members are not aware of the meaning of Gramsabha.

Table No. 6.60

Table showing meaning of Gramsabha attributed by respondents

Sr.No.	*Details regarding meaning*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	Gramsabha means a meeting of all the people of village	20	40
2.	Gramsabha is a meeting of about one-third of total population of village	10	20
3.	Gramsabha means a discussion to be held for any development work of the village	11	22
4.	Do not know	09	18
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here we have 9 respondents (18 per cent) who are Village Panchayat members, who do not know the meaning of Gramsabha. Even those who claim to know the meaning have also stated different things as would be seen here.

There are 20 (40 per cent) respondents who define Gramsabha as a meeting of all the village people. This is not a true version of Gramsabha. There are 10 (20 per cent) respondents who define Gramsabha as meeting of 1/3rd of village

people. This is very a ridiculous meaning given by Gramsabha. How could they come to this 1/3rd figure is also not known. There are 11 (22 per cent) respondents who describe Gramsabha as a forum for discussion of any developmental work. This is nearer to truth; but it is incomplete and lopsided definition.

Thus there is a great lack of clarity about meaning of Gramsabha. One wonders that if this is a picture of Village Panchayat members, what would be the level of ignorance with others.

In Junagadh district, according to all (100 per cent) respondents, the meetings of Gramsabha are held twice a year; for which a pronouncement is made before 6-7 days.

Table No. 6.61

Table describing the proceedings in Gramsabha meetings

Sr.No.	*Details regarding work undertaken by Gramsabha*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	Discussion about the works decided in previous meeting	34	68
2.	Discussion regarding implementation of development works	16	32
	Total	**50**	**100**

The respondents describe the working of Gramsabha in the above mentioned statements. 34 (68 per cent) of them describe that in Gramsabha meeting, the discussion is held on the works decided in the previous meeting. Here perhaps they are referring to the planning of development works done in that meeting. Therefore, they focus on this aspect alone. Another 16 respondents (32 per cent) describe that in Gramsabha meeting, the discussion is done about works of development of the village. Here again, they have referred to 'discussions'; but that is not the only thing done in Gramsabha meeting. Besides

discussion; there is a process of decision, which is more important. The Gramsabha, a supreme body at village level according sanction for development works is the crux of its proceedings.

Table No. 6.62

Table showing presence of Gram Panchayat members in Gramsabha meetings

Sr.No.	*Details of the Village Panchayat members attend Gramsabha meetings*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	Yes	46	92
2.	No	04	08
	Total	**50**	**100**

46 respondents (92 per cent) affirmatively said that Village Panchayat members attend Gramsabha meetings. But 4 respondents (8 per cent) replied in negative that Village Panchayat members do not attend Gramsabha meetings. This 'No' cannot be taken in absolute. It has to be interpreted that some of the members may not be able to attend Gramsabha meeting occasionally due to some social or accidental reasons.

Table No. 6.63

Table showing the partnership of women in Gramsabha

Sr.No.	*Details regarding attendance by women*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	1 to 10 women attend Gramsabha meeting	34	68
2.	11 to 15 women attend Gramsabha meeting	16	32
	Total	**50**	**100**

As many as 34 respondents (68 per cent) pointed out that less than 10 women attend Gramsabha meeting; whereas 16 respondents (32 per cent)

maintained that in Gramsabha meeting the attendance of women is between 11 to 15. While we discuss the partnership of women in Gramsabha, their attending the meeting is a first step in the direction. Earlier we had seen that not a single women had attended Gramsabha meeting. There are various reasons for women remaining away. Low level of education, orthodox atmosphere of village set-up, male dominating environment etc. are some of them. In such situation, here we have at least some women attending Gramsabha meeting. This need to be encouraged.

Table No. 6.64

Table showing partnership of S.C. people in G.S.

Sr.No.	*Details regarding attendance by SC people*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	11 to 20 S.C. people attend Gramsabha meeting	35	70
2.	21 to 30 S.C. people attend Gramsabha meeting	10	20
3.	More than 30 S.C. people attend Gramsabha meeting	05	10
	Total	**50**	**100**

The table indicates that according to 35 respondents the attendance of S.C. members in Gramsabha meeting is between 11 to 20 members. According to other 10 respondents, this number was shown between 21- 30 and according to 5 respondents it was shown to be as high as 30 plus. Thus in large number of cases, the attendance of SC people is between 11-20. At any rate, there is not a single case when the attendance is less than 10. Therefore, reasonably good number of people from Schedule Caste attend Gramsabha meetings.

Table No. 6.65

Table showing partnership of Schedule Tribe people in Gramsabha

Sr.No.	*Details regarding attendance by ST people in Gramsabha*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	1 to 5 ST members attend GS meeting	42	84
2.	6 to 10 St members attend GS meeting	-	-
3.	There is no ST population in Village	8	16
	Total	**50**	**100**

Before commenting on such a less number of attendance by ST people in Gramsabha meeting in Junagadh district, we have to appreciate that in this district, there is hardly any schedule tribe population. There are only a few Siddi people in Vanthli and Talala taluka. In this context, the less attendance of Schedule Tribe people can be well explained. Thus, when 42 respondents mention the attendance of ST people in Gramsabha at less than 5, it is quite understandable.

The meeting of Gramsabha is held in some villages in night hours and in some villages in day hours. These timings (day or night) are decided by Sarpanch according to convenience of villages.

The agenda for Gramsabha meetings are decided by Sarpanch and the members of the village panchayat together, as reported by respondents.

Table No. 6.66

Table showing partnership of people in Gramsabha

Sr.No.	*Details regarding attendance of* **Gramsabha meeting by people**	*Member*	*Percent*
1.	GS meetings attended by 20-50 people	05	10
2.	GS meetings attended by 51-60 people	28	56
3.	GS meetings attended by 61-70 people	13	26
4.	GS meetings attended by 71-80 people	04	08
	Total	**50**	**100**

For this table, we can find out the attendance of people in Gramsabha meeting in Junagadh district. There are 5 (10 per cent) respondents who mention that only 20-50 people attend Gramsabha meetings. This number is not of any value; because for a Gramsabha meeting the quorum is decided at 50. There are 4 respondents (8 per cent) who mention the attendance of people at 71-80. These incidents seem to be limited. Now therefore there are 28+13 = 41 respondents, who mention that the no. of attendance in Gramsabha meeting by 51 to 70 people. These number of people attend most number of meetings in the district.

If there is any dispute or any effort of opposition, that is resolved by panch, or even by majority group.

All the respondents have opined that there should be a separate Gramsabha for each village in Junagadh district.

The Gramsabhas in Junagadh district are handled by Sarpanch as reported by (50) respondents.

All the respondents were aware that the quorum for Gramsabha meeting is decided at minimum 50; and if there is no quorum, the GS meeting is postponed and convened again.

In Junagadh district, the record of the village panchayat members present in Gramsabha meeting is maintained as reported by all (50) respondents. Such record is maintained with their signatures in the proceedings books of Gramsabha in all the districts of Junagadh.

Table No. 6.67

Table showing the work done by Gramsabha

Sr.No.	*Details regarding work done by GS*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	Gramsabha resolved various problems of people	37	74
2.	Through Gramsabha, one gets benefits of various developmental schemes	13	26
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here in Junagadh district, we have 37 respondents (74 per cent) telling us that the Gramsabhas resolve various problems of people. Likewise, we have 13 (26 per cent) respondents telling us that Gramsabha provides them the benefits of development schemes.

Here, what has been expressed by the respondents is partial truth. No one is fully aware of Gramsabha and its real functions. Any way, they do realise that Gramsabha is useful tool for people.

Usually, the educated and well versed people take part in Gramsabha; but there are also some common men in Gramsabha too; as reported by the respondents.

Table No. 6.68

• Table showing the suggestions to strengthen the Gramsabha and make it effective

Sr.No.	*Details regarding suggestions*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	There should be regular meetings of Gramsabha	43	86
2.	There should be more frequent meetings of Gramsabha	07	14
	Total	**50**	**100**

As many as 43 respondents (86 per cent) are in favour of regular meetings of Gramsabha. They feel that regular meetings of Gramsabha will strengthen it and make it more effective. There are 7 more who are in favour of more frequent meetings of Gramsabha. They share the view that if Gramsabha meetings are held more frequently (say every quarter) that will make it strong and effective.

Further, all the respondents (50) also shared their views that if the Gramsabhas are conducted in most systematic way, they are bound to result in better development for villages.

Table No. 6.69

Table showing the stumbling blocks for Gramsabha

Sr.No.	*Details of stumbling block*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	When there is no unity among people	23	46
2.	When people are not informed about Gramsabha meeting in advance	07	14
3.	There is no stumbling block	20	40
	Total	**50**	**100**

There are 23 (46 per cent) respondents who believe that the lack of unity among people can result in a hurdle against Gramsabha. This is indeed true. Unity among people is an important asset for Gramsabha. There are a few (7) who present that lack of advance intimation for a meeting of Gramsabha can be a hurdle. This is partial true. Further, there are 20 (40 per cent) who do not see any stumbling block against Gramsabha in Junagadh district.

Table No. 6.70

Table showing measures to make Gramsabha more popular and make people aware and awakened

Sr.No.	*Details regarding suggestion*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	A wide publicity should be given for Gramsabha	23	46
2.	There should be more frequency in meetings of Gramsabha	27	54
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here, we have 23 (46 per cent) respondents who favour wider publicity for Gramsabha for better awareness. This is a practical and useful suggestion; because this is an information-age. Wider publicity to Gramsabha can indeed make them popular, acceptable and effective. Further, there are 27 respondents who favour more frequent meetings of Gramsabha. At present, two meetings in a year are provided in Act; but if they are held every quarter, the respondents feel that it will result in creating better awakening among people.

Table No. 6.71

Table showing the we status of Gramsabha - whether an autonomous body or as a part of Village Panchayat

Sr.No.	*Details regarding status as envisaged by respondents*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	Gramsabha should be independent to Village Panchayat	29	58
2.	Gramsabha should act as a part of Village Panchayat	14	28
3.	Do not know	07	14
	Total	**50**	**100**

29 respondents opine that Gramsabha should function as autonomous body,

independent to Village Panchayat; whereas just half of them (14) believe that Gramsabha should act as a part of Panchayat. The remaining 7 (14 per cent) are not determined about their opinion, and therefore they have not expressed their views.

Table No. 6.72

Table showing the reasons for the proposed status of Gramsabha

Sr.No.	*Details of reasons for proposed status*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	The independent autonomous status ensures transparency of accounts	31	62
2.	Gramsabha is an integral part of Panchayat as its part only	12	24
3.	Do not know	07	14
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here, we do not want to touch those 7 respondents who have not formed their opinion, and therefore have not given reason for the proposed status. Earlier, in Table No. 6.71 there were 29 respondents in favour of independent autonomous status; but here in this table we find 2 more (31) respondents who argue that the independent and autonomous status of Gramsabha will ensure transparency and purity of accounts. Therefore, there remains now only 12 (24 per cent) who once again maintain that Gramsabha is an integral part of Village Panchayat and therefore it has to act only as its part. Thus a large no. of respondents are in favour of independent status of Gramsabha.

Table No. 6.73

Table showing Gramsabha unit

Sr.No.	*Details regarding opinion*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	There should be cluster-wise Gramsabha	07	14
2.	There should be Gramsabha for a group villages	—-	—
3.	There should be separate Gramsabha for each village	43	86
	Total	**50**	**100**

7 respondents (14 per cent) opine that there should be a cluster-wise Gramsabha; whereas 43 (86 per cent) respondents feel that it should be at a village level. Here also, no respondent is in favour of Gramsabha for a group of villages.

The overall impression one gathers from this study is that in many villages in almost all the districts under study, the village Panchayat members themselves are not very clear about concept, functions and status of Gramsabha. It can only be hoped that this understanding will develop when they get and gather more experience. The Act is comparitively new one; and therefore they need to get more experiences. We can at least hope from the members of Panchayat that they take keen interest and utmost care to serve the cause of people with great sincerity. It has been observed that sometimes the Sarpanch or Talati/Secretary behave rudely with people; and the people simply remain silent. The people should also become aware and should remain present in Gramsabha meetings and participate taking interest in works of development of village. Only cooperation from all will ensure best works for the village.

CHAPTER 7

OPINIONS OF THE RESPONDENTS (PEOPLE OF THE VILLAGES) REGARDING GRAMSABHA

We saw the opinions of Village Panchayat members regarding Gramsabha in previous Chapters. Here in this Chapter, we have tried to present, through a series of tables, the information regarding what do the people of the villages know about Gramsabha; what meaning they attribute in Gramsabha; how is their participation in Gramsabha's functioning; how are they benefitted by Gramsabha and how did their village benefit through Gramsabha etc.

1. FOR THIS EVALUATION STUDY, WE HAVE SELECTED VALSAD AND VANSADA TALUKAS FROM VALSAD AND NAVSARI DISTRICTS

Among the villages selected for study from Valsad taluka are (1) Abrama, (2) Marla, (3) Parnera, (4) Pardi and (5) Tithal.

Among the villages selected for study from Vansada taluka include (1) Pipalkhed, (2) Vadi Chaundha, (3) Dhodmal, (4) Kavdej and (5) Kelia villages.

Thus totally 10 villages have been selected from above two talukas at the rate of 5 (five) each. From these 10 villages, at the rate of 5 each, we have selected 50 people from the villages. The information and opinions regarding Gramsabha have been collected from them, which is displayed hereunder in form of series of tables and explanation beneath them.

Table No. 7.1

Table showing whether people of villages know the meaning of Gramsabha

Sr.No.	*Details if they know the meaning*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	Yes	45	90
2.	No	05	10
	Total	**50**	**100**

It is evident from the above table that 45 (90 per cent) respondents state that they know the meaning of Gramsabha; whereas 5 (10 per cent) respondents mention that they do not know the meaning of Gramsabha. Let us then see how they explain the meaning of Gramsabha.

Table No. 7.2

Table showing how respondents explain the meaning of Gramsabha

Sr.No.	*Details regarding meaning of Gramsabha given by respondents*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	Gramsabha means that it is a meeting of all the people of village]	28	56
2.	Gramsabha means that 1/3rd of the total population of village come together and discuss the issues of development of village	07	14
3.	Gramsabha is a meeting of people of village discussing the issues and problems of village and try to solve them	10	20
4.	Do not know	05	10
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here we find different versions set forth by the village respondents. Five (10 per cent) have already stated that they do not know the meaning of Gramsabha.

But the remaining 45 (90 per cent) respondents have presented their views on the meaning. If we view the expressions from the specific meaning attributed to Gramsabha, none of replies is correct. The real meaning attributed to the term 'Gramsabha' is that it is a meeting of all the voters of the villages whose names have been registered in the franchise list at a village level. This is a new concept; because the Panchayat Act has been enforced very recently, and the people have yet to gather more experience and get exposure. The poor illiterate people of the village therefore express the meaning as they perceive from their little experience and limited knowledge. And therefore we get the statements as expressed in the Table above at Sr.No.1, 2 & 3. Here people in more or less number express their own opinion which is not a meaning but a different kind of form of this perception.

It was further learnt that the meetings of Gramsabhas in both Valsad and Navsari districts are held in the offices of the concerned villages.

In this district, we have certain Panchayats at individual village level; whereas in case of certain small villages, they have a Group Village Panchayat for a group of villages. Now, when they have individual Village Panchayat at a village level, they hold the meetings of Gramsabha in a Panchayat office at that particular village level; but when they have Group Village Panchayat, the respondents state that the meeting of Gramsabha is also held at group level (i.e. one Gramsabha for 2 or 3 villages as the case may be).

Table No. 7.3

Table showing attendance in Gramsabha by the respondents

Sr.No.	*Details regarding attendance in Gramsabha meetings*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	Attend the meeting regularly	21	42
2.	Attend the meeting occasionally	28	56
3.	Do not attend the meeting	01	02
	Total	**50**	**100**

Out of 50 respondents, 21 (42 per cent) attend the Gramsabha meetings regularly; and 28 (56 per cent) attend the Gramsabha meetings occasionally. There is at least one respondent who avows attending the meeting of Gramsabha.

This table is a reflection of the people's interest in Gramsabha. Only 42 per cent can be said to be genuinely interested at least in attending the meetings; whereas the interest of 56 per cent of people is rather casual. The percentage of totally non-interested persons is fortunately restricted to 2 per cent. He is a person who does not understand anything that takes place in Gramsabha and therefore his interest is not sustained.

Table No. 7.4

Table showing the timings of Gramsabha meetings

Sr.No.	*Details regarding timings*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	In the morning	02	04
2.	During day hours	44	88
3.	During evening hours	04	08
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus, in majority of the incidents (44) the meanings of the Gramsabha are held during day hours. The incidents of evening hours are limited to 4 (8 per cent) only. It seems the day hours are convenient to the people.

It was learnt during one study that the usual number of attendance in Gramsabha meeting is 60 to 70. However, when the study team visited some meetings of Gramsabha, the attendance found was hardly 20 to 25 members. In some of the Gramsabhas, the attendance was as small as 4-5 persons. Thus, the figures provided by village people are far from truth.

It was also found that some women also attend Gramsabha meetings, and also participate in discussion; but their number is very low.

All the respondents (100 per cent) from Valsad district mentioned that the sanction of Gramsabha is obtained before implementing socio-economic schemes and programmes. Thus, Gramsabha is consulted in important matters concerning village.

In response to the question as to how the beneficiaries of various Government schemes for poor are identified, in the Valsad district, the respondents related that the small and marginal farmers are identified; the agriculture labourers are identified and the people from BPL lists are identified.

Table No. 7.5

Table showing whether the persons presenting their problems in Gramsabha are heard or not

Sr.No.	Detail - are they heard	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	46	92
2.	No	04	08
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus, according to a large number of respondents, people raising their issues in the Gramsabha are properly heard. There were only 4 (8 per cent) respondents who said that people in Gramsabha are not properly heard; but when a large number of 92 per cent mention that they are heard, one can believe safely that they are really heard.

Table No. 7.6

Table showing utility of Gramsabha

Sr.No.	*Details - how is Gramsabha useful?*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	It provides opportunity to have dialogue and discussion in public	24	48
2.	One comes to know about the new schemes for the village	16	32
3.	It is useful for personality development	08	16
4.	Do not know	02	04
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here the village people (respondents) express the utility of Gramsabha in different ways. As many as half of them (24 i.e. 48 per cent) see it as an opportunity to have dialogue and public discussion. 16 of them (32 per cent) find it useful, because through Gramsabha, they can come to know about new developmental/welfare scheme for the benefit of villagers. 8 respondents (16 per cent) find it useful for personality development. Only 2 of all (4 per cent) do not know how Gramsabha can be useful. All these statements have been expression of how they find Gramsabha useful.

Table No. 7.7

Table showing what measures to be taken to make the Gramsabha more active

Sr.No.	*Details of measures*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	The meetings of the Gramsabha should be held regularly in each village.	22	44
2.	The people of the village should come together, meet and discuss about the issues related to village	12	24
3.	The development schemes and welfare programmes of Government should be implemented in the village with close cooperation of people and should help the backward and deprived village people to come forward	16	32
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here we have three sets of suggestions top make the Gramsabha more active. There are 22 (44 per cent) respondents in favour of regularly holding of meetings; because in their opinion, this measure alone can make the Gramsabha an active body at village level.

Then we have 12 (24 per cent) respondents who believe that if the people of village come together and discuss the problems of village, that will ensure an active Gramsabha. In this suggestion, there are two aspects; one, people of village coming together and second, discussing the problems of village. The third suggestion is regarding developmental schemes & welfare programmes of Government. The respondents want the village people to give their close cooperation in implementing them so that weaker section of people in the village can be helped to come forward.

Table No. 7.8

Table showing measures to increase the participation of people in Gramsabha

Sr.No.	*Details regarding suggested measures*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	The Gramsabha should be held at the time convenient to people	15	30
2.	The previous intimation should be given to people before holding Gramsabha meetings	13	26
3.	The problems and issues of people should be heard with empathy and should be redressed to their satisfaction.	18	36
4.	People from all the castes should be given chance to speak in Gramsabha meetings	04	08
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here the respondents make various suggestions to increase the participation of people in the Gramsabha. These suggestions have come not from any theoretical perspective; but from the practical experiences.

15 (30 per cent) respondents suggest that the meetings of Gramsabha should be held at the times convenient to people. This is very obvious. If the time is inconvenient, one cannot attend the meeting, howsoever interested he is. The convenient time ensures people's readiness to participate. The second suggestion is by 13 (26 per cent) respondents. They maintain for intimation of meeting well in advance. Unless people know well in advance about the meeting, how do they plan to attend ? The last minute intimation can cause inconvenience. Therefore this suggestion is also very much practical. In third set, there are 18 (36 per cent) respondents, who want the Gramsabha to discuss the problems of people and bring the solution is acceptable to them. This is also a good sugges-

tion. Unless the Gramsabha is able to give voice to their issues, it cannot establish its significance. And lastly, only 8 per cent respondents feel that Gramsabha should give chance to people of all castes to express their views. Obviously, Gramsabha cannot be a mouthorgan of few people only. It has to give chance to other castes also to express freely. These measures indeed can go a long way in increasing participation of people in Gramsabha.

Table No. 7.9

Table showing the benefit to self, to family and to the village from Gramsabha

Sr.No.	*Details of benefit of Gramsabha*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	There is benefit of development of self, of the family and of the village due to Gramsabha	11	22
2.	The employment opportunities increased due to development schemes in the village	20	40
3.	Do not know	19	38
	Total	**50**	**100**

There are as many as 19 respondents (38 per cent) who do not know what were the benefits of Gramsabha to them in the village. Nevertheless, there are 31 (62 per cent) respondents who know the benefits. 11 of them attribute personal development, development of family and that of village due to Gramsabha. There are remaining 20 (40 per cent) who realise that there is better employment opportunities due to development schemes in the village.

Thus, quite a good number of people are aware of benefits of Gramsabha.

All the respondents (100 per cent) know that in their district of Valsad, the leaders are Sarpanch, Taluka Development Officer (TDO), members of Panchayat etc. in Gramsabha.

Table No. 7.10

Table shows views of people -
How Gramsabha is different than Village Panchayat

Sr.No.	*Details of distinguishing features*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	There are more no. of members in Gramsabha, than in Village Panchayat	16	32
2.	In Village Panchayat, members are elected; in Gramsabha, they are from voting list	32	64
3.	Do not know	02	04
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here the respondents have described the features which distinguish Gramsabha from Village Panchayat. Both distinguishing remarks are very much relevant.

2. OPINIONS OF RESPONDENTS (PEOPLE OF THE VILLAGES) OF VADODARA DISTRICT, REGARDING GRAMSABHA

In Vadodara district, Vadodara and Chhota Udepur taluks have been selected for the study.

In Vadodara taluka, following five villages have been selected: (1) Chhani, (2) Dasharath, (3) Sakarda, (4) Kalyanpura/Fajalpur and (5) Udera.

In Chhota Udepur taluka, following five villages are selected: (1) Ronwad, (2) Ghelvat, (3) Dhandhoda (4) Singla and (5) Gabadia.

Table No. 7.11

Table showing whether respondents understand the meaning of Gramsabha

Sr.No.	Details if they know the meaning	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	41	82
2.	No	09	18
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus, as many as 18 percent village people do not know even the meaning of Gramsabha. However, 41 persons (82 percent) do know the meaning.

Table No. 7.12

Table showing what meaning the respondents attribute to Gramsabha

Sr.No.	Details - meaning attributed to Gramsabha	Number	Percent
1.	Gramsabha means a meeting of all the village people	15	30
2.	In Gramsabha, they come together and discuss the issues of development of village	18	36
3.	Gramsabha brings the solution to the problems/issues of village	09	18
4.	Do not know	09	18
	Total	**50**	**100**

This table is only an extension of the previous one. This table shows how the respondents attribute various meanings of Gramsabha.

As known earlier, 9 respondents have already said that they do not know the meaning of Gramsabha. Therefore we have to analyse the replies of remain-

ing 41 respondents. Here they have presented 3 sets of replies; but none is perfectly revealing the true meaning of Gramsabha.

15 respondents consider to be a meeting of all the village people. This is too simple a meaning. In next set, 8 respondents describe Gramsabha to be a meeting discussing the problems of development of village. This is also partially true statement. In third set of reply, 18 respondents mention that Gramsabha brings solution to the problems of village. This is again an extension of previous reply; and there is no much distinction between the two.

The meetings of Gramsabhas, as stated by all (50) respondents are held in the offices of the Panchayat. Besides, it was also further revealed that in a Single Village Panchayat, the Gramsabhas are held at village level; but where there are Group Village Panchayats for a group of villages, the Gramsabhas are also held at group level.

It was further revealed that all the selected respondents (50) attend Gramsabha meetings. So their attendance in Gramsabha is 100 per cent. How far they are regular or irregular in attending the meetings of Gramsabha will be revealed from the following table.

Table No. 7.13

Table showing regular or irregular attendance in Gramsabha meetings

Sr.No.	*Details of regularity*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	Regular in attending Gramsabha meetings	37	74
2.	Irregular or casual in attending Gramsabha meetings	13	26
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus, 37 (74 per cent) respondents attend Gramsabha meetings regularly; but remaining 13 (26 per cent) respondents either attend the Gramsabha meetings irregularly or casually. The attendance of village people is thus fairly good.

Table No. 7.14

Table showing the timings of Gramsabha

Sr.No.	*Details of times*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	During day hours	30	60
2.	During night hours	20	40
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus 30 (60 per cent) respondents relate that the Gramsabhas are held during day hours and 20 (40 per cent) respondents relate that they are held during night hours. Usually the Sarpanch decides the time for meeting keeping in view the convenience of people at large.

In Vadodara district, when the Gramsabhas are held, people raise their problems, have a discussion on that, also hold discussion on the problems of development works of village; they also identify the beneficiaries for various schemes of Government. These are usual works taken up in Gramsabha meetings.

It was also revealed that in Vadodara district, women do attend Gramsabha meetings and they represent their issues; but they do not participate in the discussion; because due to social customs they do not speak in presence of elderly people. Therefore, they prefer to be silent spectators.

All the respondents further informed that the poverty alleviation programmes of the Government have been implemented in the district through Gramsabha

and Village Panchayat. Such programmes include distribution of plot for construction of a house, Indira Awas Yojna, Sardar Awas Yojna and Gokul Gram Yojna etc. The identified beneficiaries include small and marginal farmers, labourers etc. They are identified from the BPL lists having their income below poverty line.

All the respondents (50) testified that the people from Schedule Caste, Schedule Tribes and Baxi Panch (SEBC) attend Gramsabha meetings. It was also revealed that in Vadodara Taluka the Schedule tribe population is less; whereas in Chhota Udepur Taluka, substantial no. of Schedule Tribe people are found.

Table No. 7.15

Table showing another people's problems are heard in Gramsabha

Sr.No.	Details-Are people's problems heard?	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	38	76
2.	No	12	24
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus 38 out of 50 (76 per cent) respondents mentioned that their problems are being heard in Gramsabha meetings; but 12 (24 per cent) replied in negative. How and why these problems are not heard is not known.

All the respondents mentioned that in Vadodara district, the meetings of Gramsabhas are held twice in a year.

Table No. 7.16

Table showing how the Gramsabha is useful

Sr.No.	Details of utility	Number	Percent
1.	It provides opportunity to discuss in public	30	60
2.	Through Gramsabha, the information regarding Govt. schemes is available	08	16
3.	Do not know	12	24
	Total	**50**	**100**

On describing how the Gramsabha is found useful to them, as many as 30 (60 per cent) respondents said that it provides an opportunity to make discussion of issues in public. In other words, the Gramsabha provides an exposure to them. There are 8 (16 per cent) respondents who mention that, through Gramsabha, they come to know about the information on various government schemes. Nevertheless, there were 12 respondents (24 per cent) who did not know how Gramsabha is useful to them.

Table No. 7.17

Table showing how the Gramsabhas can be more active

Sr.No.	*Details of measures*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	The meetings of the Gramsabha should be held regularly	32	64
2.	People of the village should come together and discuss	12	24
3.	The people of the village should come together and extend their co-operation in implementation of developmental and welfare schemes of Govt. and should help the persons who have lagged behind to come forward	06	12
	Total	**50**	**100**

In this table the respondents suggest measures to make the Gramsabha active in the villages. A large no.of responents (32) are in favour of regular meetings of Gramsabha. In their opinion, Gramsabha can be active by its regular meetings alone. Some here respondents (12) with that it people of villages come to-gether and discuss on various issues, Gramsabha be active. There are 6 more, who feel that people of village should extend their co-operation in these various schemes of Gov-ernment, so that the pool deprived people can also come forward. This will make Gramsabha active in their opinion. Thus, village people have several prescriptions to activate the Gramsabha.

Table No. 7.18

Table showing the suggestions regarding measures to increase the partnership of people in Gramsabha.

Sr.No.	Details of measures suggested	Number	Percent
1.	Gramsabha's meeting should be held at convinient time and place.	31	62
2.	Advance intimation should be given to people for Gramsabha meetings	04	08
3.	People's problems/grivences should be heard and satisfactory solution should be provided.	13	26
4.	Adequate opportunities should be provided to the people of all castes/ men and women everybody.	02	04
	Total	**50**	**100**

In this table, the respondents have made several suggestions to increase the people's participation in Gramsabha. The largest number of respondents (31) have suggested to call a meeting of Gramsabha at convinient time and place. This is very important suggestion; because if both time and place are convinient; a large number of people will be motivated to attend. The second larger number (13) suggest for giving ampathetic and patient hearing to the problems of people and find a satisfac-

tory solution for them. This is also practical suggestion. If people's problems are heard and discussed and if satisfactory solution is found out; people will be motivated to attend such meetings. Next in order are 4 respondents who expect an advance intimation for a Gramsabha meeting. There is a provision to pronounce a meeting 7 days in advance. This should be strictly adhered to. Lastly, there are 2 respondents suggesting for giving equal opportunities to people/men and women of all castes. Thus, people of this district have come forward with a varietyof suggestions to increase people's participation in Gramsabha.

Table No.7.19

Table showing benefit of Gramsabha to self to family and to a village.

Sr.No.	Details of benifit	Number	Percent
1.	There is a development of self of family and of a village	18	36
2.	Gramsabha could bring benefits of Government scheme	22	44
3.	Do no know	10	20
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here, there are 10 (20 percent) benificiaries who donot know what are the benefits of Gramsabha. This is quite a striking number pleading total ignorance. There are 22 (44 percent) respondents who believe that through Gramsabha, the people of the village could avail the benifits of various government scheme. Next in order are 18 respondents who mention that Gramsabha could benefit the person, the family and the village by way of their development. Thus they also realise that Gramsabha is useful for overal development.

All the respondents mentioned that in Vadodara district, the Sarpanch, Talati/ Secretary, Taluka Development Officer and the village panchayat members attend Gramsabha meetings.

Table No. 7.20

Table showing the distinction between a Gramsabha and a Village Panchayat

Sr.No.	Details reg.distinguishing features	Number	Percent
1.	In Gramsabha, all the villagers come	18	36
2.	In village panchayat, there are only elected members	22	44
3.	Do not know	10	20
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here, as many as 10 (20 percent) respondents are not aware of difference between a Gramsabha and a village panchayat, even those who know have been shown intwo different blocks; but their responses are supplementory to each other. 18 respondents say that in Gramsabha all the people of the village come; whereas the remaining 22 only supplement this information, suggesting that in village panchayat, there are onlyelected members. The responses need no further elaboration.

3. OPINIONS OF THE VILLAGERS OF KUTCHH DISTRICT REGARDING GRAMSABHA

Two talukas of Bhuj and Mandvi have been selected in Kutch district for Gramsabha evaluation study.

In Bhuj taluka, we have selected following five villages. (1) Bhujodi (2) Deshalpar (3) Golpar (4) Chhachhala and (5) Vadsar.

In Mandvi taluka, we have selected following five villages : (1) Mota Layja (2) Moti Rayan (3) Durgapar (4) Bhinsara and (5) Janakpar.

Table No. 7.21

Table showing the number of respondents knowing the meaning of Gramsabha

Sr.No.	Details if they know the meaning	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	46	92
2.	No	04	08
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus, as many as 46 (92 percent) respondents claim that they know the meaning of Gramsabha. Only 4 (8 percent) declare that they donot know the meaning.

Table No.7.22

Table showing the respondents giving the meaning of Gramsabha

Sr.No.	Details Meaning attributed to Gramsabha	Number	Percent
1.	Gramsabha is a meeting of all the people of the village.	28	56
2.	Gramsabha discusses the problems of development of village	11	22
3.	In Gramsabha they present the bill of work done in previous year and also planning of such works	07	14
4.	Do not know	04	08
	Total	**50**	**100**

In this table, the respondents have attributed different meanings to Gramsabha according to their own understanding. This table is thus an extention of the previous table wherein 46 respondents claimed that they know what Gramsabha is. There are 4 (8 percent) respondetns who have already said that they donot know the heaving. Let us analyse the responses.

As many as 28 (56 percent) have described Gramsabha as a meeting of all the people of the village. This is indeed true; but very simple. No further qualifying information provided.

Another 11 (22 percent) respondents describe Gramsabha as agency discussing the problem of development of village. Yes, this is an important fanction of a Gramsabha, which is highlighted in the responses of these respondents.

7 of them however give a different version. They narrate that, in Gramsabha the bill of the works done in previous year is presented and new works are planned. This is not a proper version of what Gramsabha does. Here perhaps the respondents are refering to the review of work done by Gramsabha. Planning for next year is of course one of the functions of Gramsabha.

All the respondents however stated that in Kutch district the Gramsabha meetings are held in their villages.

Table No. 7.23

Table showing whether respondetns attend Gramsabha meeting

Sr.No.	Details regarding regularity	Number	Percent
1.	Attend Gramsabha meetings regularly	25	50
2.	Attend Gramsabha meetings occassionly	21	42
3.	Donot attend Gramsabha meetings	04	08
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus 25(50 percent) respondents attend Gramsabha meetings regularly; but 21 (42 percent) attend it occasionally. They are rather irregular in attending meetings. They may go, or may not go. Further, there are 4 (8 percent) who do not attend any meeting of Gramsabha. This is a small number, but we need not neglect this vital fact.

Table No.7.24

Table showing the timings of Gramsabha meetings

Sr.No.	Detail of timings	Number	Percent
1.	During day hours	05	10
2.	During night hours	45	90
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus usually, in large number of cases (45) the Gramsabha meetings are held in night time. In 10 percent of cases, they are reported to have been held during day hours.

It is presumed that the people go for work during day hours; therefore night hours are convinient for them.

Table No.7.25

Table showing whether the problems of respondents are heard or not

Sr.No.	Details are problems heard ?	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	46	92
2.	No	04	08
	Total	**50**	**100**

There are as many as 46 (92 percent) respondents who have stated that their problems are being heard in Gramsabha. Only 4 said that their problems are not heard in Gramsabha. Thus a vast majority persons feel that Gramsabha gives hearing to their problems.

All (50) respondents opined that the Gramsabhas in Kutch district have their meetings held twice in a year.

Table No.7.26

Table showing how the Garamsabha is useful

Sr.No.	Details regarding utility of Gramsabha	Number	Percent
1.	It provides opportunity to Sepak in public	24	48
2.	It provides opportunity to know about the schemes of Government coming to village	14	28
3.	It is useful for development of personality	10	20
4.	Do not know	02	04
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus, while taking about utility of Gramsabha, as many as 24 (48 percent) relate that it provides opportunity to speak in public. For them, it is initial lession for leadership. For 14 respondents (28 percent) it is an opportunity to know about Govt. Schemes providing benefits to village people. For them, Gramsabha is a source of information. 10 other respondents (20 percent) view it as means of personality development. Thus diferent respondents view Gramsabha from their own perspective. There are only 2 respondents who donot know how Gramsabha is useful to them.

Table No. 7.27

Table showing how to make Gramsabha more active

Sr.No.	Details regarding suggestions to make Gramsabha active	Number	Percent
1.	There should be Gramsabha in all villages	17	34
2.	People should come to-gether and discuss	18	36
3.	The people of village should co-operate in implementation of development scheme and welfare programmes tobring the deprived people of village together	15	30
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here in this table, the respondents make several suggestions as to how the Gramsabha can be made an active body. There are 3 sets of suggestions and all three blocks are almost equally divided.

17 (34 percent) respondents sugest that there should be Gramsabha in each village. Their arrow is directed to the group village Panchayats, where there are group Gramsabhas. But the respondents want Gramsabha for each village seperately irrespective of size of village. This is to ensure that even small village's voice is heard and their independence is recognised.

There are 18 (36 percent) respondetns who believe that the village people should come to-gether and discuss the issues. Here the implied emphasis on discussion in cordial manner.

There are 15 (30 percent) respondents who wish that the village people should extend co-operation in various schemes and programmes, so that the depined people of village are helped to came forward.

Thus, we have several useful suggestions to make Gramsabha useful.

Table No.7.28

Table showing measures to increase people's participation in Gramsabha

Sr.No.	Details regarding measures	Number	Percent
1.	The Gramsabha should be held at the convinient time and place.	19	38
2.	People should be informed in advance about the Gramsabha meeting	09	18
3.	Gramsabha should hear the problems of people and should make efforts to solve them	14	28
4.	Opportunity should be given to people of all castes to speak	08	16
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here in this table the respondents have made several suggestions to increase the participation of people in Gramsabha. A large no.of respondetns (19) have maintained that the meeting of Gramsabha should be held at the time and place convinient to people. This is very obvious. If the time and place for meeting are convinient to people, they are likely to attend meetings in larger number.

Then we have 14 respondents who maintain that the Gramsabha should hear the problems of people and should provide satisfactory solution for it. This is also very important, because people do expect from their own organisation to listen to their problems and provide solutions for them.

There are 9 persons (18 percent) who wish to be informed in advance about the meeting of Gramsabha. This is necessary, in so far as the advance intimation ensures advance planning for attending meeting.

Lastly we have 8 respondents (16 percent) who suggest that people of all castes should be provided opportunity to speak. This is also equally important.. Gramsabha is an organisation of the whole village; and therefore everybody should get a chance to put forth one's views. This can ensure better participation.

Table No.7.29

Table showing benefit of Gramsabha to self, to family and to village.

Sr.No.	Details of benefit	Number	Percent
1.	Gramsabha benefits self, the family and the village.	27	54
2.	Through Gramsabha the village gets benefits of development schemes	12	24
3.	Do not know	11	22
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here the respondents explain how the Gramsabha has benefitted them. A

large no.of respondents (27) mention that Gramsabha has benefitted to self, to the family and to the village; whereas 12 (24 percent) specifically mention that due to Gramsabha the village gets benefit of development schemes. But it is a matter of concern that quite a large number (11) donot know how Gramsabha is beneficial. They need to be attended to.

The respondents have also mentioned that in Kutch district. Taluka Development Officer, officials from Taluka Office, Sarpanch, Talati/Secretary and the village Panchayat members have emerged as leaders in Gramsabha meeting.

Table No.7.30

Table showing how is Gramsabha different from village Panchayat

Sr.No.	Detail of distinguishing features	Number	Percent
1.	Gramsabha includes all the people of the village.	27	54
2.	There are only elected members in Gram Panchayat	23	46
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here as usual in other districts, we have two sets of replies regarding difference between Gramsabha and Village Panchayat. Both the replies are supplementory to each other. Here 27 respondents mention that there are all the people of the village in Gramsabha; whereas remaining 23 respondent's maintain the other part of the truth that village panchayat is made of elected members of the village.

4. OPINIONS OF PEOPLE OF THE VILLAGES (RESPONDENTS) REGARDING GRAMSABHA OF SABARKANTHA DISTRICT.

The Sabarkantha District, two talukas of Himatnagar and Khedbrahma have been selected for the evaluation study of Gramsabha.

In Himatnagar Taluka, following five villages have been selected, vil. (1) Purai (2) Bavsar (3) Hadiol (4) Takhatgadh & (5) Nikoda.

In Khedbrahma taluka, following five villages have been identified, vil. (1)Laxmipura (2) Kalol (3) Poshina (4) Kajawas and (5) Vikoda.Amba mahuda.

Table No.7.31

Table showing whether respondents know the meaning of Gramsabha

Sr.No.	Detail Whetherknows meaning	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	31	62
2.	No	19	38
	Total	**50**	**100**

In this Sabarkanths district as many as 19 (38 percent) respondents even donot know the meaning of Gramsabha. Therefore 31 persons remain, who claim to know the meaning.

Table No.7.32

Table showing what meaning do respondetns attribute to Gramsabha

Sr.No.	Detail of meaning given	Number	Percent
1.	Gramsabha is a meeting of all the people of a village.	18	36
2.	In Gramsabha 1/3rd of the people of the village come to-gether and discuss the problems of development of village.	02	04
3.	Gramsabha is a meeting called for the solution of the problems and issues of the village.	11	22
4.	Do not know what is Gramsabha	19	38
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here, the respondents attempt to describe the Gramsabha as they visualise it. We know that 19 respondents (38 percent) donot know what is Gramsabha; and therefore we have to analyse the responses of remaining 31 respondents only.

18 of them mention that Gramsabha is a meeting of all the people of village. This is simple truty. It is a meeting of all village people; but the qualifying aspect of having their names in the voting list at village level is missing here. So that extent the reply is incomplete if not false.

Then there are 11 respondents who describe Gramsabha as a meeting convened for redress of the problems & issues of people. Here, the developmental aspect of Gramsabha is not at all considered.

There are again 2 persons who mention that Gramsabha is a meeting where 1/3rd number of village people discuss about the development of village. Discussion on development of village is okay; but why they talk about 1/3rd of people of village cannot be explained.

Thus, different respondents give different meaning of Gramsabha with change in focus from one aspect to other.

It was also learnt from respondents that in Sabarkantha district, where there is a single village Panchayat, seperate Gramsabha at village level is planned; but when there is a group village panchayat, the Gramsabhas are also convened at group of village level, at one place at one time.

Table No.7.33

Table showing whether responds attend Gramsabha regularly

Sr.No.	Detail regarding attending Gramsabha Meeting.	Number	Percent
1.	Attend Gramsabha meeting regularly	08	16
2.	Attend Gramsabha meeting casually	18	36
3.	Do not attend Gramsabha meeting at all	24	48
	Total	**50**	**100**

It is shocking that almost half of the respondents (24) donot attend Gramsabha meeting at all. This aspect needs to be considered. Now out of 26 also who attend Gramsabha meetings, as many as 18 are casual or irregular in attending meeting. Therefore, there are only 8 respondents who are regular in attending Gramsabha meetings.

Table No.7.34

Table showing the timings of Gramsabha

Sr.No.	Details regarding time	Number	Percent
1.	During day hours	20	40
2.	During evening hours	20	40
3.	Not held at all	10	20
	.Total	**50**	**100**

It is clear from the above table that in some villages the Gramsabha is held during day hours, and in some villages during evening hours; but surprisingly in some village of Sabarkantha districts the Gramsabha are not held at all, as reported by 10 respondents.

Table No.7.35

Table showing the working of Gramsabha

Sr.No.	•Details regarding work undertaken in Gramsabha	Number	Percent
1.	Discussion on development works for the village	17	34
2.	Implementation of various schems	18	36
3.	Planning of new works	07	14
4.	Do not know	08	16
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here, 8 respondents donot know any thing about working of Gramsabha. Out of remaining 42 respondents, as many as 18 mention that Gramsabha implements various development schemes.

There are 17 respondents who mention that Gramsabha discusses various developmental works of the village. There are 7 respondents who mention the planning of new works as working of Gramsabha.

Thus, we find different versions from the respondents. None of the responses is false; but each response throw light on one or other focal issues.

It is also learnt from the respondents that some women do attend the Gramsabha meetings; but they donot participate in the discussion in public. This is due to social restrictions wherein women donot openly talk in presence of elderly people.

Table No.7.36

Table showing whether respondents are being heard in Gramsabha

Sr.No.	Details if they are heard	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	35	70
2.	No	15	30
	Total	**50**	**100**

One table indicates that according to 70 percent respondents they are heard in Gramsabha meeting; but according to 30 percent respondents, they are not heard in Gramsabha. It is concluded that by and large people are heard there except some exceptions.

Table No.7.37

Table showing how Gramsabha is useful to them

Sr.No.	Details regarding utility	Number	Percent
1.	We come to know about the functioning of the scheme due to public discussion	10	20
2.	We come to know about various schemes	25	50
3.	Do not know	15	30
	Total	**50**	**100**

Two table reflects the views of respondents as to how the Gramsabha has been useful to them.

Half of the respondents (25) maintained that through Gramsabha, they are able to know about various schemes of Government. This is an obvious benifit; because in Gramsabha meeting, there is always discusion on Govt. Schemes for development of village and welfare of poor people. 10 respondents (20 percent) also

share the same view suggesting that, because of discussion in Gramsabha meeting, they come to know about working of the various schemes. Nevertheless there are as many as 15 (30 percent) respondents who donot know what are the benefits of Gramsabha.

Table 7.38

Table showing how Gramsabha can be made more active

Sr.No.	Detail regarding measures	Number	Percent
1.	Meetings of the Gramsabha should be held regularly in each village	19	38
2.	One people of the village should remain present and discuss the problems of village.	07	14
3.	The people should come to-gether and co-operate in implementation of various schemes and welfare programmes so that the deprived people are helped to come forward.	24	48
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here there are three sets of suggestions for making Gramsabha an active body. Almost half of the respondents (24) share the view that people of the village should co-operate in various schemes and programmes implementation so that those who have lagged behind can come forward. Here the rationaile is that if the poor/ deprived are helped to come forward, the Gramsabha will become here active.

There are 19 (38 percent) who are in favour of regular holding of Gramsabha meeting. In their views, if the meetings are held regularly, the body will become active by itself.

There are 7 (14 percent) respondents who suggest for useful discussion on the problems of development of village.

Thus, the people, from their experience and wisdom have suggested important and useful measures to activate Gramsabha.

Table No.7.39

Table showing measures to increase partnership of people in Gramsabha

Sr.No.	Details reg.measures	Number	Percent
1.	Gramsabha meetings should be held at convinient place & time	04	08
2.	Advance intimation should be gives for Gramsabha meeting.	21	42
3.	People's problems should be heard and satisfactorilly resolved in Gramsabha	20	40
4.	People from all the castes should be given chance to reprent	05	10
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here four different measures are suggested to increase participation of people.

There are 21 (42 percent) respondents who have suggested for advance intimation. This is a basic requirement. If you want people to remain present and participate, inform them in advance. That will ensure maximum participation.

There are 20 (40 percent) respondents who have suggested to listen to people's problems and provide satisfactory solutions also. This is a kind of direct benefit. If people, having problems are benefited by being heard and helped to find solution, that can build a hope among people and ensure their participation.

There are 5 respondents (10 percent0 who have advocated for providing equal opportunity to all castes of people. In Gramsabha, all members are equal and they should get equal chance to represent.

Lastly there are 4 respondents who have mode a basic demand, that, the meetings of Gramsabha should be held at the time and place convinient to people. This is also an important aspect to ensure better partnership.

Table No.7.40

Table showing the benefits of Gramsabha to self, to family and to the village.

Sr.No.	Detail regarding banefit	Number	Percent
1.	Gramsabha has helped to develop self, the family and the village.	25	50
2.	Gramsabha brought benifits to people from various chemes	15	30
3.	Do not know	10	20
	Total	**50**	**100**

There are 5 respondents (10 percent) who donot know how Gramsabha has benefited them. There are 25 (50 percent) who specify that Gramsabha have helped themselves, that fanilies and the village to develop. There are 15 (30 more) who testify that because of various Govt. schemes, being implemented by Gramsabha, the village has been benefitted.

Thus different people view the benefits from their angles and express accordingly.

The respondents have further nearroted that in Gramsabha, Sarpanch, Village Panchayat members and Taluka Development Officer etc. have emerged as leaders.

Table No.7.41

How is Gramsabha different than village Panchayat

Sr.No.	Details of distinguishing features	Number	Percent
1.	Gramsabha is attended by all people of village.	25	50
2.	Vilalge Panchayat in made of elected members	15	30
3.	Do not know	10	20
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here 25 respondents (50 percent mention that Gramsabha, being a general body of all the village-people, is being attended by all; where are the second part is mentioned by 15 (30 percent) who mention that the village panchayat is made of only elected persons. Thus two distinguishing features are provided by totally 40 respondents; but 10 have clearly stated that they donot know the difference.

5. OPINIONS OF PEOPLE OF VILLAGES OF JUNAGADH DISTRICT REGARDING GRAMSABHA

We have selected two talukas of Vanthali and Talala from Junagadh District for the purpose of evaluation study of Gramsabha.

From Vanthali taluka, the five villages selected are (1) Navlakhi (2) Balot (3) Dhandhusar (4) Ravuni and (5) Balwada.

From Talala Taluka of Junagadh district, the five villages selected are (1) Galiawad (2) Samser (3) Borvav (4) Virpur and (5) Vadla.

Thus from both the talukas 5 - 5 village have been selected. From each village 5 respondents (people of the village) have been selected; thus making a total of 50 (10x5) respondents from Junagadh district. The information has been collected from them on various aspects of Gramsabha and their opinions have been recorded in tabulation form.

Table No.7.42

Table showing whether respondents know the meeting of Gramsabha

Sr.No.	Detail if they know the meaning	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	36	72
2.	No	14	28
	Total	**50**	**100**

It is shocking that as many as 14 (28 percent) respondents even donot know the meaning of Gramsabha. Only 36 (72 percent) respondents have claimed to have know the meaning of Gramsabha.

Let us therefore know, what meanings they attribute to Gramsabha.

Table No.7.43

Table showing meaning attributed to Gramsabha

Sr.No.	Details reg.meaning given	Number	Percent
1.	Gramsabha is a meeting of people of village	16	32
2.	Gramsabha is a meeting conved by Sarpanch development works of village	11	22
3.	When 1/3rd of people of village come to-gether and discuss the issues related to development of village	9	18
	Total	**50**	**100**

As we saw earlier, as many as 14 respondents donot know the meeting of Gramsabha. Out of those 36 who know the meaning, try to explain it in different ways.

16 respondents (32 percent) explain it to be meeting people of village. 11 respondent (22 percent) go little further and explain it to be a meeting convened by Sarpanch to discuss the works of development of village. The remaining 9 (18 percent) respondents describe it as a meeting of 1/3rd people of the village who come to-gether anddiscuss the problems related to the development of village.

Thus diferent versions are provided regarding meaning of Gramsabha. Some relavent, some irrelevent.

Table No.7.44

Table showing whether respondents attend Gramsabha Meeting regularly

Sr.No.	Details regarding attendence to Gramsabha Meeting.	Number	Percent
1.	Attends Gramsabha Meeting regularly	09	18
2.	Attends Gramsabha Meeting casually	31	62
3.	Do not attend Gramsabha Meeting	10	20
	Total	**50**	**100**

This is a picture of Gramsabha Meetings being attended by respondents. Only 9 respondents attend Gramsabha meetings regularly; and there are as many as 31 (62 percent) who are irregular in attending meetings there are 10 (20 percent) who donot attend the Gramsabha meetings at all.

Table No.7.45

Table showing reasons for not attending Gramsabha Meetings

Sr.No.	Detail regarding reason	Number	Percent
1.	Not interested in proceedings of Gramsabha Meeting.	07	14
2.	Do not get time	03	06
3.	Attend the Gramsabha Meeting regularly or occasionaly	40	80
	Total	**50**	**100**

Except those (40) who attend the Gramsabha Meeting regularly or occasionally; the remaining 10 have given reasons for not attending Gramsabha Meetings. 7 out of 10 donot find any interest in the procedings of the meeting. They simply donot understand what is going on there; and there fore feel bored. Other 3 said they donot get time. But, if the meetings are held in interesting manner; if those who donot understand are specially attended and focused upon; perhaps the attendence in Gramsabha may increase.

52 percent of respondents said that Gramsabha meetings are held during night hours; whereas 48 percent said, they are held in day hours.

Table No. 7.46

Table showing whether their problems are heard and attended

Sr.No.	Details-whether presentations is heard	Number	Percent
1.	Yes	29	58
2.	No	21	42
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here it can be observed in quite large number of case, the problems presented by members are heard in Gramsabha but those who said "no" are also as many as 21. There problems in Gramsabha are not heard. It was further explored that problems presented in Gramsabha by SC/ST/SEBC people are sometimes heard and attended; but in quite a good number of case, they are even not heard nor attended.

Table No. 7.47

Table showing how is Gramsabha useful to the people

Sr.No.	Detail of utility of Gramsabha	Number	Percent
1.	The problems of the villages are resolve	26	52
2.	Through Gramsabha, several schemes useful to villager, are brought to the villagers	04	08
3.	Useful for personality development	08	16
4.	Do not know	12	24
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here, 12 respondents (24 percent) donot know how Gramsabha is sueful to them. One of the remaining 38, 26 respondents opine that Gramsabha is useful in

resolving issues of the village. They are perhaps right; because Gramsabha in course of its activity, do attend crucial village problems. there are 8 (16 percent) who believe that it is useful for personality development. Gramsabha is a place where people try to speak, represent, learn and advise. This adds to their personal group. The remaining 4 persons (8 percent) also believe that through Gramsabha, various govt. schemes are brought to village. Their perception is also correct because Gramsabha implements several govt. scheme.

Table No.7.48

Table showing measures to activate Gramsabha

Sr.No.	Details reg. measures	Number	Percent
1.	In each village, the meeting of Gramsabha should be held regularly	04	08
2.	The village people should meet and the problems of the village should be discussed	18	36
3.	The people of the village should come to-gether and co-operate for implementation of schemes and Govt. programmes and should help the .... anddeprived people to come forward	28	56
	Total	**50**	**100**

In this table, the respondents make some suggestions to make Gramsabha more active. There are as many as 28 (56 percent) who suggest that the people of the village should come to-gether; should extend their co-operation in implementation of various developmental schemes and should try to bring the weaker and deprived people in forefroht. This, in their opinion, can activate the Gramsabha to great extent.

There are 18 respondents who suggest that if we want to activate the Gramsabha, the village people should come forward and discuss the problems of the village.

Lastly, there are 4 respondents who suggest that meeting of Gramsabha should be held regularly.

Thus is first set of suggestions, there is a scope on welfare measures for the depuited; in second place, the emphasis is on developmental works and discussion and lastly there is a suggestion for regular meetings.

Table No. 7.49

Table suggesting measures for increasing participation by people

Sr.No.	Details reg.suggested measure	Number	Percent
1.	The meetings of Gramsabha should be held at convinient time and place.	01	02
2.	An advance intimation should be given for holding the meetings of Gramsabha	08	16
3.	Gramsabha should listen to the problems and issues of people and should bring satisfactory solutions	37	74
4.	All the caste of people should get chance to sepak in Gramsabha.	04	08
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here in this table respondents have made several suggestions to increase participation of people.

There are 37 respondents (largest number) who place emphasis on listening to various problems and issues of people and bring their solutions. If people's problems are solved, their participation is going to increase. Then we have 8 respondents who insist advance intimation of the meeting. This can lead to people's increased participation; because they know where the Gramsabha is to be held and what they can represent there.

There are 4 respondents who want the chance to be given to all castes of

people to speak and represent. Since, Gramsabha is a body of all people of the village; this suggestion holds validity.

And only one respondents has made rather important suggestion that the meeting of Gramsabha should be held regularly at the time and place convient to them.

Table No.7.50

Table showing benefits from Gramsabha

Sr.No.	Details regarding benefit	Number	Percent
1.	The self, the family and the village developed	21	42
2.	The people of village got employment	23	46
3.	Do not know	06	12
	Total	**50**	**100**

Here in this table, the respondents tell us how the Gramsabha has benefitted them. Almost half of them (46 percent) suggest that due to Gramsabha,the people of village got employment. This statement is to be understod in its depth. The Gramsabha undertakes various developmental works for a village. Most of these works are bound to generate employment. Therefore, Gramsabha can reasonably get, credit for such employment.

Secondly, as many as 42 percent testify that due to Gramsabha, the self, the family and the village developed. Gramsabha carries out various activities which benefit both the individual and the community. Here such benefits are taken note of.

Lastly, there are 6 respondents who are not aware of any benefit of Gramsabha.

Table No.7.51

Table showing difference between a Gramsabha and a village Panchayat

Sr.No.	Details reg.distinguishing featurers	Number	Percent
1.	There are more members in Gramsabha them in village Panchayat	20	40
2.	The members in village Panchayats are elected, whereas in Gramsabha, they are not elected.	16	32
3.	Do not know	14	28
	Total	**50**	**100**

Thus, as many as 14 respondents, who donot know the difference between Gramsabha and Gram Panchayat. Out of the remaing 36 respondents, 20 have said that there are more members in Gramsabha, than in village Panchayat. This difference is very obvious and puts emphasion on the aspect of number.

The reamining 16 have held that the Panchayat members are elected persons; whereas in Gramsabha, there is no need to be elected. It is enough if one's name appears in a voters' list at village level.

This is how the people in Kutch District tried to explain the difference between village Panchayat and Gramsabha.

Thus, in this chapter, we have recorded opinions of village people from selected villages of 5 Districts have given their impressions and opinions about Gramsabha. One can only suggest that the people still need some more orientation about Gramsabha, in philosophy, its structure, its composition, its functions and its areas of operation. More knoweldge and information will wash up their miss-impressions and miss-concepts. Such trained, enlightened villager will be an active participant in the entire process of decentralised governance in general and Gramsabha in particular.

CHAPTER - 8

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMANDATIONS

The 73rd constitutional ammendment all has provided a constitutional opportunity for self-government at Panchayat level throughout the nation through Panchayati Raj. In the Gujarat Panchayat Act, 1993, which has been enacted on the basic of 73rd constitutional amendment, several very important provisions have been incorporated to strengthen the Panchayats at local level. e.g. woman have been provided one third reserved seats for each office of Panchayat at each level. The shedule castes, schedule tribes and SEBC (Baxipanch) have been provided reserved seats in Panchayat according their population. Provisions have been made for constitution of State Election Commission and State Finance Commission. Besides, it has also been provided in the Act that convening the meeting of Gramsabha twice a year is compulsory. This constitutional provision is experessed in section 4 of Gujarat Panchayat Act. We discussed eartier that Gramsabha is an organisation of people of village who have been registered as voters in the voters' list of villages included in Panchayat area. Gramsabha has been empowered to take important decisions about the works partaining to the village. The first meeting of Gramsabha is to be convened by the end of May of the financial year. In this meeting of Gramsabha, the accounts of the previous year and the work done during the year is reviewed. The second meeting of Gramsabha is convened in the month of November, wherein the planning for the next year is considered. If the partnership and participation is ensured in these two meetings, the transperency and responsibility of the Panchayat will be maintained.

The Government of India is celebrating this year as Gramsabha year. On this occasion, the Institute is entrusted with the work of an evaluation study of Gramsabha. The Tribal Research and Training Institute has done an evaluation of Gramsabha in five districts of Gujarat State. Here we have the conclusions and recommendations based on this survey :

CONCLUSIONS :

1. About 80 percent of respondents claim that they know the meaning of Gramsabha; but 20 percent of respondents are totally ignorant of its meaning. Further, those 80 percent who claim to know the meaning are not completely, clear in their concept. However, they have at least some basic understanding that Gramsabha is a meeting where the discussion on the development of village is held. The meeting of Gramsabha is usually held in the Village Panchayat Office. Very few people know that Gramsabha is a meeting of people of 18 years of age and above, of the village.

2. The people attending meetings of Gramsabha and that too attending the meetings regularly are very few. The reasons known from them have been ennuerated below :

   (a) At some places, no advance intimation for the meeting is given. e.g. The study team had tried to visit some Gramsabha Meetings during field visit at Poshina in Sabarkantha district as also in some interior villages of Valsad taluka; but the Gramsabha meetings were not held at all. Only a couple of leaders turned up. When people were asked the reason for their absence, they informed that there was no intimation given to them.

   (b) At some places Sarpanch or Talati donot take any interest and therefore Gramsabhas are not held. At some places, the officials at taluka place donot show any interest; and therefore people face difficulties. They gather the feelings that there is no body to listen to their problems.

   (c) At some places, people have informed that they donot get adequate information about the Government schemes, and therefore they donot get benefits. They argue that they cannot get their work done dispite several personal visits, and therefore they lose interest in attending Gramsabha

Meetings. e.g. in an interior village of poshina taluka, a hand pump has been damaged; but no one comes there to get it repaired. People face hard ships for getting drinking water.

(3) In some villages, Gramsabha in reality, is not held; but on a paper, the signatures of the people is obtained; and show is made as if Gramsabha Meeting is held. Of course, the cocept of Gramsabha is a new concept; and it will take sometime for people to realise and grosp it. If they are properly heard; if their problems are solved and if they are help in their difficulties they will gain confidence in Gramsabha and they will be motivated to attend the meetings.

(4) The level of education among people is rather low. Consequently, they donot have adequate awareness about the new act, or about the schemes. Of necessity, therefore, their level of enthusiom is low.

(5) Usually the intimation about the Gramsabha meeting is given a week in advance through pronouncement by a peon. But, it so happens that people might be away at work and have no intimation of meeting. It is also possible that when people return from work, they are completely exhausted; and that is why they must be avoiding to attend the Gramsabha Meeting.

(6) When the meeting of Gramsabha is held at convinient time to people, say in day hours or night hours whichever are convinient hours for people to attend; the attendence is much better. e.g. we have witnessed the people in Gramsabha in Kutch and Vadodara Districts, attending the meetings in quite a good number, and discussing thouroughly regarding their issues. We could also see women and people from backward communities discussing in Gramsabha with great courage. If the taluka level officials remain present in such meetings, it gets good weightage and it is likely that the work of people could get momentum due to their presence in the meetings.

(7) As regards the participation of women in Gramsabha, it seems that the shyness of women prevent them to participate in public. They hardly speak or discuss. Their presence in the meetings of Gramsabha is limited. The level of literacy is also low among women. They need more training. It is observed that in presence of elderly people, the women do not make their presence felt due to social customs.

(8) It has also been observed that in Gramsabha meetings, we have witnessed the people from schedule castes, schedule tribes, Baxi Panch (SEBC) and general category etc. participating in more or less number. There has been no discrimination made against anybody. Their presentation is also heard during discussion; but the usual complain is that the work is hardly done.

(9) It is always useful to increase the participation of people in Gramsabha to make them active. For this purpose, an advance intimation should be given to people for the meeting of Gramsabha and such meetings should be held at the time and place convinient to people. Gramsabha has indeed benefitted to people. New roads have been constructed, handpumps for water have been installed; school rooms have been constructed; and a number of poor people have been deprived. They voice their concern that if they are also covered under some schemes and benefits extended, it will be better.

(10) Respondents respond that the Gramsabhas have been responsible for benefitting self, the family and the village. Those who who participate in the Gramsabha meeting, come to know about various schemes and about development activities. e.g. in Kutch district, the officials from taluka level visit Gramsabha at village level and provide information to people of villages, and take interest in the development works of the village. That is why, people are also motivated to attend Gramsabha Meetings and take part in discussion. Besides, people get facilities like roads, school rooms, hand pumps etc. in the village.

(11) There has been transport and communication deficiencies in the interior villages. People face great hardships. Especially women have to carry the small baby or the luggage. Their demand is for a Bus transport service.

(12) Most of the people complained that there is no health Centre; or where there is any, there are no doctors or nurses. Especially women complain that they have great difficulties during delivery. Their demand is for a Health Centre with facilities of doctor and nurse in each village.

(13) It there is any opposition or dispute in a Gramsabha Meeting, the elderly people get the disputes resolved.

(14) The Nyay Samities (committees for Justice) are yet absent in many villages. However the village 'Panch' and the elderly people provide satisfactory service of justice.

(15) A record is maintained about the people present in Gramsabha. But in many villages, this is not done satisfactorilly.

(16) The well awakened and educated people take interest in Gramsabha. Other people take less (oat least) interest. They sometimes attend meetings, and sometimes avoid to attend.

(17) If we want to make Gramsabha effective and well established; and if we want people to participate in Gramsabha with enthusiasm; it is necessary to convene the meetings of Gramsabha regularly; people should be given advance intimation about such meetings and people's work should be given top priority. That only will make them participate in Gramsabha with enthusiasm. Likewise, it is also necessary that people to take active interest; to attend Gramsabha meetings, to know the things being discussed and become aware, and to extend full co-operation.

(18) Sometimes, the meeting of Gramsabha is postponed for want of quorum in the meeting. In such cases, sometimes, it so happens that instead of calling an author meeting, the signature from some people is acquired, and a show is made as if the Gramsabha meeting is held. In such cases, people's work are not done.

Thus, the study reveals that meetings of Gramsabha are regularly held in very few villages. There is lack of education and lack of awareness among people; there is often lack of interest among Sarpanch, Talati and taluka level officials. Therefore in some of the villages of the State of Gujarat, it seems that the Gramsabha work is not done very systematically. If a little more care and sincereity is added to the work, it can be done in much more better way; and the development of village and village people can be ensured. However, in reality we see that the picuture of Gramsabha is rather pessimistic and gloomy in many villages. The Gramsabha meetings are not held regularly as provided for in the Act. Whenever they are held, they starve of adequave attendance by members. Even when people are present in adequate number; the presence of people from schedule caste, schedule tribe, women etc. are not prsent in adequate number.

In some of the villages, the meetings of Gramsabha are held on paper only. The real Gramsabha meetings are held at very few places. In each Panchayat, the sub. committees have been constituted for taking their support and co-operation. But hardly, these committees have been effective in work at any place. The sub- committees have not been able to function effectively for want of co-ordination, and due to only responsibilities unaccompanied by necessary powers.

Here now we place certain suggestions/recommendations based on our observations as well as our discussions with people, workers, government officials in administration, and based on our meetings during this study.

SUGGESTIONS/RECOMMANDATIONS :

(1) The training camps, workshops and exhibitions etc. should be planned to provide information and bring awareness among people.

(2) Gramsabha's meetings should be held more frequently than twice. It should be held where they are not held at all or not held twice in a year. For this, the youths and the workers should held meetings at each cluster to motivate people and make there ready.

(3) Where there are group panchayats, the Gramsabhas are held for a group of villages to-gether. Instead, for each gram panchayat, seperate village-wise Gramsabha meetings should be held; because each village has its own problems.

(4) The Gramsabhas should be given more powers. Those voters who are unable to attend Gramsabha meetings should be specially motivated. It necessary, some regulations should be enforced; so that all the voters think of attending Gramsabha meetings.

(5) The intimation for the Gramsabha meeting should reach each villager at least eight days in advance. The Gramsabha's meetings should be held at the convinient time and place to all people-men as well as women.

(6) As for as possible; the Sarpanch should be educated upto at least primary education level; so that he can understand the functioning of the Panchayat and aso can implement it properly.

(7) In big villages, the Gramsabhas should be held cluster-wise. Both the Taluka Panchayat & District Panchayat officials and office bearers have been given adequate powers in this regard, yet they seem to be indifferent. This indifferent attitude should be done away with; and the Gramsabha should be activated for

development of village, to reach the various schemes for weaker sections to needy people and for success of people\'s governance.

(8) In the states like Tripura, Himachal Pradesh and Bihar; the Gramsabhas are empowered to appoint vigilance committee to inquire into the administration of Panchayat. In the same manager, Gramsabha should be vested with the powers to sanction the annual budget of village panchayat, its annual report and its audit report also.

(9) When there is no quorum for a Gramsabha's meeting; such meeting should be posponed, new agenda should be pronounced, new date should be decided and such meeting them should be planned at the conviment time and place to the people.

(10) In Gramsabha, the attendence of taluka level officials should be made compulsory, so that Sarpanch and Talati do not behave improperly with people, and people get satisfactory replies.

(11) In order to more activate the Gramsabha, the village Panchayat members and people should work in co-operatiion and co-ordination with each other and everybody should attend Gramsabha meetings regularly. This is not the work to be done only by government; or only by people. This work is to be done by all to-gether with co-operation and unity. That is the only key to development of village.

(12) it has been found on the basis of this study that women sarpanch and the village panchayat members need more intensive training. They are not able to attend the training programme at Gandhinagar due to pre-occupation of household work and responsibilies at home. It is necessary to arrange for their training at taluka level.

(13) It is also found tht usually the educated and awakened people participate in Gramsabha. Therefore it is necessary that these educated and awakened people try to motivate their ignorant and backward counterpart in villages and make them participate in Gramsabha meetings.

(14) In Gramsabha usually economically well-of and higher caste people are found participating. But now a system and arrangement should be devised so that even poor and backward people also participate in Gramsabha; so that they become aware of their problems and can be helped to develop.

(15) Talatis should be entrusted with a responsibility of a village or two. Their contenson is that, due to over burden of 4-5 villages, responsibility, they canot give proper justice to their work.

All these suggestions have been derived on the basis of this study. As such, Panchayats are involved in various Government Schemes such as Gokul Gram Yojana, Sardar Awas Yojana, Indira Awas Yojana; scheme for financial assistance to destitute widows, Kunwarbai-nu-Mameru, propviding sewing machines, hand pumps, school rooms, digging of tanks etc. It Panchayats, while discharging these functions, get co-operation from people and voluntary organisations, things would be much more better. It is obvious, that the work of deveopment of village can be undertaken in a better way with active co-operation from people. If there is no unity in the village; if there are internal conficts in the village; its development and progress suffers. This was witnessed by the study learn during field work. We observed that in a village, the work of construction of a bridge was sanctioned; but due to two opposition parties in a village, this work could not be undertaken. If people of the village are properly empowered; if they give their countribution; the development of village is ensured. The decentralisation of power in its true sense of the term is possible through such active participation only. There is a great potential for all-round development of village, if the plånning is done at local grass-root level, the problems and issues of

people, of villages, of talukas and of district are considered and if co-operation at all level is solicited.

In order to make the village and the people of village happy, waht is required is :

- to realise the real issues
- to understand the social, economic and political level of village and to construct the strategy for rural development accordingly.
- to create an awareness against all kinds of exploitation and to build a strong organisation,
- to make the people's representatives more efficient and effective,
- to penetrute and inject the real spirit in all the intrastructures of people's administration by introducing honesty, integrity and sincereity in such structures.
- to understand the new Act and to strengthen the Panchayats; and
- to create the strength to lead the people on the path of development.

To day, some voluntary organisations/NGOs have taken up the work of bringing awareness for Gramsabha. This has resulted in regular holding of Gramsabha meetings in such villages, and people have also started attending such Gramsabha meetings. This has resulted in positive development of a village in much better way. Nevertheless, this work is yet to be done intensively in the interior villages.